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NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

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Chernomyrdin, Kuchma Discuss Bilateral Ties in Copenhagen

LD1103173695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Chamara for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen March 11 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Copenhagen on Saturday to discuss bilateral relations.

During the one-on-one meeting, Chernomyrdin and Kuchma also discussed preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Ukraine and other issues of mutual interest.

Meeting journalists after the talks, Kuchma particularly singled out the question of debt rescheduling. "We agreed with Viktor Chernomyrdin that we will set this process in motion next week and that the Paris Club of creditor nations should be used as a model for solving this problem," he said.

Earlier today, Chernomyrdin, who, along with Kuchma and the leaders of other countries, is attending the world summit for social development being held in Copenhagen, stressed that the issues on its agenda are very important. The world is on the threshold of the 21st century. It is what it wants to enter the new century with that the forum participants are discussing in Copenhagen, he said.

The Russian premier also pointed out that such meetings provide a good opportunity to meet the leaders of other countries to exchange on urgent issues of mutual concern.

Apart from Ukrainian President Kuchma, Chernomyrdin has also met with Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Kuchma: Yeltsin To Visit Kiev in March

LD1103180995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Chamara for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen March 11 TASS—"We have agreed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin that our meeting in Kiev will take place in March," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

Russian Prime Minister "Viktor Chernomyrdin told me that he will do his best to make sure the meeting takes place," Kuchma told journalists in Copenhagen on Saturday.

Kuchma is in Copenhagen to attend the world summit for social development currently underway there.

Earlier today he met with Chernomyrdin who said that First Vice- Premier Oleg Soskovets will go to Kiev on Thursday to check the preparations for President Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Ukraine.

"As for the question of dual citizenship, which is being forced upon us, I will not even discuss it," Kuchma said. "This question does not exist and should not exist. What does exist is the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, which we must discuss and resolve. The sooner we do it, the better for Ukraine," he said.

This question might have been discussed during his meeting with the Russian premier earlier today, but the talks were held in private and no details were released. An official report said only that they discussed "issues of mutual interest."

Meeting journalists after the talks, Kuchma particularly singled out the question of debt rescheduling. "We agreed with Viktor Chernomyrdin that we will set this process in motion next week and that the Paris Club of creditor nations should be used as a model for solving this problem," he said.

Yeltsin Promises Chechen OSCE Mission, Seeks Troika Support

BR1003151395 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Pilar Bonet: "Yeltsin Promises EU Elections in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow—Russia is prepared to authorize a permanent mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Chechnya, provided that it supports the strengthening of Moscow's control in the area. This emerges from the talks held yesterday by the foreign ministers of the European Union "troika" with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and State Duma (lower house of parliament) Speaker Ivan Ribkin. Without giving details, Yeltsin promised the participants that there will be elections in Chechnya this year, and that Russia will withdraw its heavy weapons from that republic, according to Spanish Minister Javier Solana.

Solana specified that, according to his information, there are "disparities" between the Russian assertions and the situation on the ground in Chechnya.

The "troika" currently is comprised of the foreign ministers of France, Alain Juppe; Germany, Klaus Kinkel; and Spain, Javier Solana. This was the first high-level European visit since the Russian troops entered Chechnya on 11 December. The EU is "more prepared" than ever to assist Russia in economic and democratic reforms, Juppe stated. However, the Chechen crisis runs counter to the cooperation process, the minister added. Russia should act in accordance with the decisions of the

OSCE, which wants a permanent presence, a comprehensive cease-fire, a process of dialogue, and an effective distribution of humanitarian aid.

Trade Agreement

The EU has linked the situation in Chechnya to the signing of the delayed interim trade agreement, which was to operate until the cooperation agreement signed in Corfu in 1994 entered into force. This stance has irritated the Russians, although not as much as the Europeans expected, according to Solana. Kozyrev described the delay as "unjustified."

The Russian leaders confirmed to the "troika" their favorable attitude to the setting up of a permanent mission in Chechnya. This was the impression which they had already conveyed this week to an OSCE delegation led by Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn. However, the mission's characteristics are still to be defined, and the differences in priorities among the Russian participants detected by the European ministers suggest that the matter could be contentious. It was Yeltsin who showed himself most interested in the supervision of the mission, and the Duma speaker, the most enthusiastic, warned against "political tourism," according to one of those attending the meeting. [passage omitted]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Mar

LD1103084995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0633 GMT 11 Mar 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—This day, March 11, is likely to pass almost unnoticed against the background of events rocking Russia. However, an event took place a decade ago, on March 11, 1985, which ended "an epoch of splended funerals", and opened a new era, which was called perestroika (reforms) 45 days later.

Ten years have passed today when the plenary meeting of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee elected Mikhail Gorbachev its general secretary. The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper calls this day "fatal for the history of the party and the state".

Recalling the phenomenon of French President de Gaulle who returned to the presidency 12 years later, the newspaper intimates that Gorbachev has already joined the presidential race.

It explains that while de Gaulle, leaving the helm of the country in 1946, played the role of France's saviour, Gorbachev "left behind a bitter memory and that the effect from his activities was quite opposite—not saving but the collapse of the state".

While the French people themselves called de Gaulle back to the presidency 12 years later, Gorbachev entertains vain hopes, thinking that Russian people will call him back too.

"Nevertheless," the daily writes," a myth was born about a great reformer." "Why was this done?" the newspaper asks and gives the following reply: "Gorbachev was prompted, as it were, what image he should have, what image the civilized society and the cream of his own nation wanted him to have.

"The myth about the great reformer was necessary to conduct these reforms with the use of this myth rather than with real Gorbachev."

the ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA devotes its commentary to the tenth anniversary since the start of reforms: "Some people started reforms for the sake of a facelifting of the delapidated system, which helped them to remain at the helm of the country. We know them.

"They are no hindrance to us now, since we are starting to live and work normally. It is difficult now. However, the present Russian leadership is carrying out reforms which were a subject for theoretical disputes of newspaper publicists in the second half of the 1980s."

Today's leading newspapers continue to comment on the latest developments in the Moscow corridors of power caused by the sackings of Moscow Chief Prosecutor Ponomarev and Chief of the City Police Department Pankratov as well as by Mayor Luzhkov's threat to resign in protest against this act by the Russian president.

Under the general heading "Response by Kremlin gods to murder of Vlad Listyev—panic and fear for their lives", the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes that "it can be stated with certainty that the hitherto united state organism fell apart into fragments as organs of power, secret services and law enforcement bodies were gradually disintegrating.

"These fragments act as independent subjects on the Russian political scene. This inevitably results in struggle between major groups: the all-Russian headed by Yeltsin and the Moscow one represented by Mayor Luzhkov.

"They and their allies are engaged in bitter struggle for control over the First Ostankino TV channel on the eve of the presidential race. Vlad Listyev fell the most noticeable victim of this struggle."

Many newspapers run articles about the Chechnya crisis. Under a big headline "Deadly threat looms over Chechen prisoners of war", the IZVESTIYA newspaper carries lists of servicemen taken prisoner in Chechnya.

The daily writes that "these lists were compiled by brave people. They handed over them to human rights societies, newspaper editorial offices and coordination centres of the soldier mothers' committee".

In the meantime, living standards of Russian citizens do not improve.

Referring to the economic situation research centre at the Russian Government, the ROSSIISKIE VESTY newspaper reports that the general index of inflation totalled 111 per cent in February and 131 per cent since the start of the year.

The growth of charges for paid services to population substantially topped prices for foodstuffs and non-edible goods. Food prices in major Russian cities were rising at accelerated rates.

Food prices were the highest in the following Russian cities: Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk and Vorkuta.

CIS To Consider Setting Up Interstate Currency Committee

LD1003210095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The collective presidency and board of the Interstate Economic Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States met in joint session to pass a decision on the foundation of an interstate currency committee.

They decided to advise the Commonwealth heads of government to sign a formal agreement on the creation of the interstate currency committee. The agreement is to be drawn up by a working group under the deputy chairman of Russia's Central Bank Vyacheslav Solovov.

Solovov told INTERFAX that the interstate currency committee would be called to "work for the promotion of multifaceted cooperation in the fields of currency payments and credit relations, the coordination and further improvement of currency regulations, and the coordination of monetary-credit and currency policies of the countries that signed the agreement on concerted payment policies."

According to Solovov, the committee will be playing a special role in "the promotion of concerted policies for currency control." In addition, the committee will be founded as a working and coordinating body of the countries that agreed to pursue concerted payment policies.

The discussion of the agreement on the transportation of special cargoes and army supplies was held behind closed doors and is said to have highlighted serious differences.

The organizational angle of the efforts to found the interstate currency committee, including suggestions for the committee's temporary structure, table of organization and budget, will also be discussed behind closed doors.

Ukraine Attends Interstate Economic Committee Session

LD1103124995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of the presidium of the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC], which was set up by a decision of the CIS heads of state, got under way in Moscow on 10 March. A government delegation of Ukraine, led by Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Osyka, is taking part in its work. Aleksey Bolshakov, chairman of the IEC presidium and deputy prime minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, greeted the participants in the session on behalf of the Government of Russia. He wished them success in achieving the main goal of the Interstate Economic Committee—development and interaction of economies of the CIS member states.

Consideration of a draft agreement on setting up an Interstate Currency Committee [ICC] was among the priority issues at the session of the IEC presidium. The ICC is supposed to promote multilateral cooperation in the field of currency and credit relations, development of forms and methods of coordinating the monetary, credit and currency policies of the signatories to the agreement on setting up a payments union of the CIS countries. As is known, Ukraine will join the payments union only after its national currency is put into circulation. However, at the current session the delegation of Ukraine submitted a number of fundamental proposals concerning the draft agreement on setting up an Interstate Currency Committee. In particular, these are proposals concerning the procedure of seceding from the ICC, which should be based on internationally recognized principles.

The activities of the International [as heard] Currency Committee will undoubtedly contribute to developing economic cooperation between the CIS countries, bringing their currency procedures closer to each other, speeding up mutual settlements, and regulating the issue of debts. The desire of all the participating sides to build their economic relations on the basis of mutual respect and equality should be regarded as the main factor in this process. The draft agreement on setting up an Interstate Currency Committee will be submitted for the consideration of the council of the CIS heads of state.

The session of the IEC presidium also addressed other important issues.

Ukraine Abstains From Joining CIS Customs Union

LD1103175595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1345 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow [no date as received]—Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have submitted applications to the Interstate Economic Committee seeking admission to the Customs Union. Ukraine did not submit an application to join the Customs Union. Aleksey Bolshakov, deputy head of the government of the Russian Federation, and chairman of the presidium of the Interstate Economic Committee relayed this news to journalists after the presidium and the board of the Interstate Economic Committee ended their 10 March session.

At UNIAN's request, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Osyka commented on this fact as follows:

"Ukraine supports the idea of setting up the Customs Union in general, but the distance to it should be covered not at a rocket-escape velocity, but at a normal pace." According to him, the agreement on free trade, concluded between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, will contribute to coordinating the fiscal, taxation, and economic functions of the customs borders between the two countries. "The law enforcement and political functions of the customs borders will remain unchanged," Serhiy Osyka pointed out.

In his opinion, the issue of Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union will depend on the effectiveness of the free trade procedure between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Ukraine Considers Russian Proposal on Transporting Military Equipment

LD1003201995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1640 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, [No date as received]—A draft agreement on transporting special cargoes and products of military designation, presented by the Russian Federation, was discussed at a sitting of the presidium and collegium of the Economic Union's Interstate Economic Committee behind closed doors on 10 March. The draft envisages mutual deliveries and the transport of special cargoes and military equipment, and also their export and import.

"This draft agreement has been drawn up by Russia exclusively in its own interests, because in fact it envisages the unimpeded and unmonitored transport of any cargoes over the territory of Ukraine and Belarus first of all, and other states, without taking into account their national interests. A demonstration of this is the Russian side's categorical refusal to draw up a single list of special cargoes and products of military designation for all participating countries,"—one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation said in an interview with UNIAN.

The Ukrainian side proposed that the concept of "third countries" be introduced in the export and import of military equipment for those countries, which are not participants in the said agreement, but this proposal was not supported by a majority of votes.

The draft agreement does not envisage the necessity of concluding trilateral or several-sided agreements on the transit of military equipment, and also, according to representatives from the Ukrainian delegation, the possibility of addressing judicial arbitration bodies in the event of the impossibility of resolving disputes through negotiations is not clearly stipulated.

Minsk Hosts Talks on Joint CIS Air Defense

MM1303132795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Ivanov: "Air Defense Commander in Chief in Belarus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Almaty agreement reached by the CIS heads of state on the creation of a Commonwealth combined air defense system a working group of specialists led by Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of the Russian Air Defense Forces and chairman of the CIS Committee on Air Defense Questions, has flown to Minsk.

During the visit the main principles governing cooperation among the friendly states' air defense forces will be discussed with the leadership of the Belarusian Defense Ministry.

Interparliamentary Assembly Discusses Environment

MM1303093095 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "For a Blue Sky and a Green World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] St. Petersburg—The CIS countries' Interparliamentary Assembly has discussed questions of nature conservation. The two-day international scientific and practical conference entitled "problems of environmental conservation in the CIS states" was held at the Tavricheskiy Palace—the Interparliamentary Assembly headquarters. Representatives of CIS parliaments, leaders of CIS ecological and economic ministries and scientific and public organizations, and foreign ecologists took part in the meeting.

Baltic Prime Ministers Meet in Tallinn on Eve of Gore Visit

LD1203132195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn March 12 TASS—The elaboration of common positions on the eve of U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore's visit, beginning on March 13, to the three Baltic countries is the subject of a meeting taking place in the Estonian capital on Sunday between the heads of government of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Numerous local commentators believe that Estonia, during the forthcoming talks with Mr Gore, will offer its services as an adviser and consultant to the American leadership on the Chechen crisis in Russia, since it has "sufficient experience in maintaining relations with the Russians".

Tallinn is also prepared to sign an agreement on technical cooperation with the United States in ecology, specifically in matters concerning environmental protection at the former Russian naval base at Paldiski.

Lithuania, for its part, intends to seek U.S. material support for the Lithuanian company which is part of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

Lithuanian Report: Latvian Crime Rate Lowest in Baltics

WS1303121495 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 10, BNS—Crime rate in Latvia was lowest among the Baltic states during the first two months of this year with an estimated 21.4 offenses per 10,000 population, the Lithuanian Interior Ministry said in a report released Friday.

There were 26 and 35.4 offenses per 10,000 population in Lithuania and Estonia, respectively, the ministry said. Criminal offenses stood at 18.2 per 10,000 population in Latvia, 23 in Lithuania and 25.5 in Estonia.

The report indicated that an estimated 9,677 offenses were reported to Lithuanian law enforcement agencies in January and February, or 15.9 percent more than during the same period last year. Crime rate jumped from 22 offenses per 10,000 population last year to 26 this year.

Urban crime during January-February rose 19.8 percent over the same period of 1994. Murder and attempted murder grew from 61 cases in January-February last year to 84 cases this year. Intentional property damage was up 118 percent; theft 26.5 percent; auto theft 27.5 percent.

The number of crimes involving firearms dropped from 79 cases during the first two months of last year to 36 cases this year. Robbery went down by 35.1 percent and property extortion slid by 43.3 percent.

During the first two months, police disclosed 3,560 crimes, down 3 percent from last year.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Meet in Geneva 'Late March'

LD1003174195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnyev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (Interfax)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher will hold talks in Geneva late in March. This issue was coordinated in Moscow on Friday at the meeting between Kozyrev and US Ambassador in Russia Thomas Pickering, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told Interfax.

He said that "the US side accepted the Russian proposal on the date and venue of the meeting."

"In Geneva the two sides will discuss the whole range of bilateral relations, as well as issues concerning Russian-US cooperation in the international arena," said Karasin.

He said that Kozyrev and Christopher will also discuss issues associated with the upcoming Russian-US summit.

"Problems of European security and the situation at with 'hot spots' are likely also to figure in as important issues at the talks," said the diplomat.

"We proceed from the fact that Christopher, who is touring the Middle East, will share his impressions on the situation in the region. The impressions are likely to be taken into account by Andrey Kozyrev, who will also tour the region late in March-early in April," said Karasin.

Reasons for Pickering's Interrupted Trip Pondered

MM1303114395 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 3

[Article by Leonid Timofeyev: "Was the U.S. Ambassador Dispatched in Error?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I wonder where things have hotted up—here or in America? In any event, ambassadors do not interrupt their travels—as Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia, did Thursday while touring the Far East—without due cause.

The official information is diplomatically sparse: The head of the diplomatic mission returned to Moscow for consultations on important questions of Russo-American relations. What are those important questions? In the opinion of Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of Information and the Press, Pickering and his Washington bosses will discuss the organization of a personal meeting between the two countries' presidents.

In addition, our diplomat believes, Pickering might have been recalled to Moscow to prepare a meeting between the respective foreign policy department leaders, Christopher and Kozyrev. Grigoriy Karasin did not name the country where this meeting might be held. But according to certain information it is due to take place in the next few days in Geneva.

Some ill-wishers, meanwhile, see the intrigues of the Federal Counterintelligence Service behind the haste with which the ambassador returned to Moscow. Russian counterintelligence is allegedly preparing some kind of action with regard to U.S. spies.

Tensions With America Said To Have Reached 'Critical Point'

MK1103091095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Gornostayev under the "Russia-USA" rubric: "Time To Do Something. Kozyrev and Christopher Will Be Trying To Overcome Differences"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The string of events and statements in regard to Russian-American relations was capped by a word from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the sudden return from Moscow from his Far East tour of American Ambassador to the Russian Federation Thomas Pickering for urgent consultations with Washington.

Tensions have perhaps reached a critical point, and the sides are now trying to ease them. Christopher has announced that he will be coming to Europe within the next few weeks to meet with his counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. A Russian Federation Foreign Ministry source has said the meeting may take place in Geneva in the coming few days rather than weeks, before Kozyrev leaves for Paris in order to sign, on 21 March, the stability in Europe pact on Russia's behalf. These talks will reportedly deal with preparations for the upcoming summit between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton. Understandably, however, the nervousness in Moscow and Washington has not been caused by this question alone.

The Kremlin is clearly displeased with the absence in Clinton of a burning desire to meet with Yeltsin in Moscow on the day of the observances for the 50th Anniversary of the Victory. The White House said more than once that the two presidents will meet in the first half of the year, but 9 May did not figure in those statements. No coincidence, perhaps. [passage omitted]

Thus in yet another area Russian-American bilateral problems have reached a point where something has got to be done. This is in fact something the men in both countries' foreign policy departments have got around to. Ambassador Pickering held a meeting with Andrey Kozyrev on his return to Moscow. That it was important can be judged from the fact alone that the Russian minister's discussion with Tajikistan President Emomali

Rakhmonov, which, Foreign Ministry sources say, was planned for yesterday, was canceled. According to AP reports citing a high-ranking U.S. Administration spokesman, Pickering was supposed to hand Kozyrev a letter from Christopher and discuss a range of problems on which the positions of Russia and the United States diverge.

Deputy Accuses U.S. of 'Arming' Croatia To Fight Serbs

LD1203174995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bryansk March 12 TASS—"The United States of America are arming Croatia for struggle against the Serbs," Russian high-ranking Deputy Sergey Shirshov said.

Shirshov, chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Sunday that he has information indicating that the U.S. had sent C-130 military cargo planes to Croatia at nighttime and that the planes had not been cleared by the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

Shirshov, 49, who has just returned from the former Yugoslavia, said that in conditions when the U.S. is supplying arms to the Croats, the Russian leadership should "take adequate measures to prevent a bloodshed." First of all, "we must provide economic assistance to the Serbs," he added.

The deputy stressed the need to review Russia's policy in the Balkans, which he termed "one-sided." Russia's participation in the economic sanctions against Yugoslavia is a "cruel and unforgivable mistake," he said.

Russia should pursue its own interests in the region instead of "allowing itself to be led by the U.S. and other Western countries," Shirshov said.

In his view, Russia has "much more significant interests" in the Balkans than the U.S., Britain or Germany.

Shirshov believes that the Russian leadership should do its best in order to lift the sanctions on Yugoslavia, which have already caused Russia "billions of dollars in damage." Apart from economic gains, this will also raise Russia's prestige in international affairs, he said.

Moscow Radio Questions U.S. Position on DPRK Nuclear Reactors

SK1103002395 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By station commentator Aleksandr (Krishini)]

[FBIS Translated Text] A two-day meeting was held in New York to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. Regarding the meeting and Russia's resolution on this matter, station commentator Aleksandr (Krishini) writes:

U.S., Japanese, and ROK representatives participated in the recent meeting to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. They formed the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, a professional consortium for supplying light-water reactors to the DPRK, and invited 20 countries to join. It is expected these countries will provide Pyongyang with financial support to build light-water reactors. Thus, the fiction of the so-called nuclear threat on the peninsula centered around the DPRK has disappeared [kurihayo chosonminjujuui inmingonghwagugul tullossan pandoesoui irunba haek wihyobiranun hoguga sarajyoborige toelgosimnida].

It seems great progress has been made in resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. This was said by Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs and an important attendee at the New York meeting, who was assessing the significance of the consortium.

However, there is no ground for such optimism because the DPRK strongly opposes Washington's and Seoul's attempts to force it to accept ROK-style light-water reactors. Pyongyang recently warned that if the United States stubbornly adheres to its demand on this matter, Pyongyang would break the Geneva agreement reached in October 1994 between the DPRK and the United States to ensure nuclear safety on the Korean peninsula.

DPRK nuclear energy experts point out that ROK-style light-water reactors lack technological guarantees for safety, and thus are interested in Russian-style light-water reactors.

What is Russia's position on this issue? Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev clearly expressed Moscow's position during his recent visit to Japan. In a press conference in Tokyo on 4 March, the Russian foreign minister stated Russia must provide Pyongyang with light-water reactors. He awakened reporters to the fact that Russia put forward the proposal on providing light-water reactors to the DPRK. The Russian foreign minister considers it strange if Russia does not actively participate in realizing this idea.

In short, Russia is ready to cooperate in every way possible to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. Hereby a question arises as to why on earth the United States is driving the implementation of the plan to denuclearize the Korean peninsula into a dangerous phase, demanding the introduction of ROK-style light-water reactors that Pyongyang cannot accept [yogiso kwayon migugi pyongyangi chopsuhalsu omnun hanguksan kyongsuro toimmanul kangyohae nasomyonso chosonbandoui pihaekhwa kusang chacheui ihaengul wihomhan kungmyonuro kkulgogal piryoga odie itkennungaranun munjega chegidoego innungosimnida].

Yeltsin Meets IMF Chief in Kremlin

LD1003131195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Mar—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met in the Kremlin today with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF. "I am very glad that our long-awaited meeting has finally taken place," the Russian head of state said when he welcomed the distinguished guest.

"For the last few months, ways of meeting the requirements of the IMF, and of Mr. Camdessus personally, have been the sole concern of all those connected with federal finances," the Russian president said.

The meeting was attended by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Tatyana Paramonova, acting chairman of the Russian Federation's Central Bank, and Aleksandr Livshits, the Russian president's assistant for economic affairs.

ITAR-TASS Details IMF Credit Deal

LD1003165295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 10 Mar—[passage omitted]

Speaking about the second document, that is the declaration by the Russian Government and the Russian Central Bank on the economic policy for 1995, [Russian Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that "the very strict parameters we have set up are extremely important for Russia." In accordance with the document, the monthly inflation rate in Russia must not exceed 1 percent by the end of the year.

"We have lived through a whole quarter this year without asking the Central Bank for credit even once, and therefore I hope that we will be able to keep to the parameters we have set for ourselves today," Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

He added that today's negotiations between Boris Yeltsin and Michel Camdessus were "solid." Viktor Chernomyrdin said the head of the Russian state "reiterated Russia's willingness to follow the adopted line."

"It will be far from easy for us, but we will do everything possible to fulfill the obligations we have undertaken," Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed.

"The first installment could be deposited at the Central Bank as early as the first half of April," Michel Camdessus said, answering a journalist's question as to when the actual allocation of IMF funds to Russia will begin. He said the document signed today in the Kremlin was only the start of the process of allocating Moscow reserve credit of $6.25 billion. "We have now to implement in practice the provisions set out in the document which has just been signed," the IMF head said. I have to receive the official agreement of the members of the Fund and the council of directors; it is necessary to prepare a whole range of documents, in particular a report of the council. Then it has to be circulated to the capitals of the IMF member-states. All of these technical issues, which are unavoidable, usually take three or four weeks. But, of course, we will try to speed up the whole process."

"The IMF has the possibility of undertaking an obligation to Russia: to say that the money will be there no later than the first few days of April," Viktor Chernomyrdin joked in response to this reply.

Speaking to journalists today in the Russian Foreign Ministry's press center, Michel Camdessus expressed support for the program of economic reforms in Russia. He spoke of his decision to recommend that the IMF Council of Directors allocate Russia a reserve credit of $6.25 billion. The council's meeting should take place in April.

"I am voting for trust, and I do not do that very often," Camdessus stressed. "Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin convinced me that the Russian Government's economic program for 1995 will be implemented in full."

Chubays, IMF's Camdessus Comment

LD1003191495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The IMF's experts see the standby loan for Russia as one of the most effective forms of assisting it in economic recovery, the IMF's Managing Director Michel Camdessus said at a news conference in the wake of today's signing the loan deal.

Monthly disbursements appear to be a reasonable timetable for closer control of Russia's economic progress, Camdessus said.

Depending on results, talks might be held in the end of this or the start of the next year on releasing a larger tranche for a few years ahead, Camdessus continued.

Camdessus praised what Russia had done so far for economic reforms, especially privatisation, foreign trade liberalisation and the formation of the national budget, whose deficit will be first closed from non-inflationary sources this year.

Only reduction of inflation to a one-digit figure will be a sure sign of reversing production slump. IMF managing director admitted, however, that he had no illusions about Russia's rapid success, with enormity of its economic challenges in mind.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays described the IMF's loan in sight as "an international vote of confidence to the economic programme of Russia". He said the loan deal with the IMF had been a key term for launching talks with the Paris Club on rescheduling of Russia's external debt.

The impact of the IMF's decision is not gourged [as received] only in billions of dollars, it will make Russia's reforms irreversible, Chubays stressed.

Delegation Visiting U.S. To Negotiate Loan With World Bank

LD0803091995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0640 GMT 8 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington March 8 TASS—The main aim of a U.S. visit by a delegation of the Russian Agriculture Ministry is to continue talks with the World Bank on extending Russia a loan to deepen agricultural reforms and structural changes in the agro-industrial complex.

ITAR-TASS learnt at quarters close to the delegation that Russia asks for a 500-million-dollar loan. The question on extending these funds can be resolved by this summer. The world bank already granted a 240-million-dollar loan to Russia last year to carry out reforms in the agro-industrial complex.

The sides also discussed issues on implementation of other projects in Russian agriculture, which are financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The delegation described as "very constructive" talks with the leadership of the U.S. agriculture department, where the sides considered prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries, including preparation of a new Russian-U.S. agreement on agriculture.

Delegates had meetings with representatives from agricultural business where the sides discussed problems containing U.S. Investments in the Russian agro-industrial complex.

ITAR-TASS learnt from the same quarters that "investments in agricultural infrastructure and construction of grain silos as well as flour mills were the main issue".

Premier Chernomyrdin Arrives in Copenhagen for Summit

LD1103104095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Taras Laryokhin and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen March 11 TASS—Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Copenhagen today.

The head of the Russian Government will attend the World Summit for Social Development, which is now under way here. He will address the summit today, will meet several of its participants, and will attend an official dinner, which will be arranged by Danish Queen Margrethe II in honour of the heads of state and government, who have arrived for the final part of the forum.

Chernomyrdin Departs Copenhagen for Moscow

LD1103232295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2303 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Taras Lariokhin, and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen, 12 Mar—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, left the Danish capital for Moscow late on 11 March. On Saturday, he attended the proceedings of the world summit on social welfare.

The head of the Russian Government addressed the summit and had meetings with Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. He also attended a ceremonial dinner given by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in honor of the heads of states and governments who had come to the Copenhagen forum.

EU Confirms Partnership With Russia Postponed

LD1103152295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels March 11 TASS—The European Union's officials confirmed on Saturday, following talks with Russian representatives earlier this week, their earlier decision to postpone the signing of a partnership agreement with Moscow.

The spokesman for EU Commission member Hans van den Broek, who was in Moscow along with the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Spain, told journalists in Brussels that the talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin were extremely useful.

However, he pointed out that Moscow is taking unproportional measures to crush the separatist movement in Chechnya, which is why a temporary agreement cannot be signed.

Yeltsin Envoy to Yugoslavia on Chances for Peace

LD1103002995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 March—The situation in the former Yugoslavia may become exacerbated over the next few weeks due to Croatia's refusal to extend the period of deployment of UN forces on its territory and the end of the four-month truce between the warring sides in May. Aleksandr Zotov, special envoy of the President of the Russian Federation for a Yugoslav settlement, said in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that such a development may give rise to a chain reaction in which events will be difficult to predict and control.

The diplomat said that the efforts of not only interested parties within the framework of the Contact Group but also those of representatives of the European Union, the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], NATO, and the leaders of individual countries were united around the realization of this danger. Proof of this were the talks in Moscow on Thursday [9 March] between the Russian leaders and the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and Spain which had touched upon the subject of Yugoslavia as a priority.

In this respect, A.Zotov noted, Russia supports the French initiative to convene a conference with the participation of the leaders of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia to achieve a political solution for the Yugoslav crisis. All efforts in this direction up until now have failed to guarantee success, while giving hope. Therefore the Russian side is striving to promote the achievement of real and substantial progress in the direction of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

How this meeting is prepared is extremely important. It would by itself signify a considerable step forward and therefore it is necessary and important to create an adequately sufficiently firm basis for the talks process.

The members of the Contact Group have at times encountered situations in which the views of the parties on how to organize the process did not coincide. This includes the specific issue of lifting sanctions. Certainly, it is difficult to straightaway agree on everything and set out priorities. But whatever path out of the crisis is taken, it must meet the basic interests of all the parties and must not give grounds for any of them to view it as a personal defeat, A. Zotov stressed.

The permanent representatives of the member countries of the Contact Group in New York are also actively at work in this area, he continued. At present they are engaged in a search for ways of settling the conflict from the point of view of the UN as well as extending the term of the presence of the peacekeeping forces in Croatia.

At another level of the Contact Group, the ministerial, contacts—mostly individual, but coordinated—are being made with both Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and other parties in one way or another involved in the conflict and with an interest in avoiding the negative consequences of its development. These efforts are growing steadily as far as time allows, but they all have the same aim: that of both avoiding an uncontrollable situation in Croatia and preventing a so-called "spring offensive" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is possible to avoid such an extremely dangerous development of events but much depends on the leaders of these countries themselves, on the extent of their sincerity in seeking to avoid the development of the conflict and proceed along the path of a general normalization of the situation in the region, the special envoy of the Russian president stressed.

Army Paper on Russian-Bulgarian Military Talks

MM1303111695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "Cooperation With Bulgaria Is a Strategic Course"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, and his Bulgarian counterpart Dimitur Pavlov began in a fairly unusual way. The ministers spoke privately while the other Russian Defense Ministry representatives and members of the Bulgarian delegation accompanying their minister on his official visit to Moscow split up into groups "according to interests" and discussed the specifics of military reform in the two countries. Then the meeting continued with the full delegations.

Journalists were told by Army Gen. Pavel Grachev that the talks discussed the state of and prospects for Russian-Bulgarian military and military-technical cooperation and that views were exchanged on European security issues, including the situation in the Balkans and Russia's attitude toward the prospects for the expansion of NATO.

At the end of the conversation the ministers signed plans for cooperation between the two countries' defense departments and agreements on coordination in the development of arms and military hardware for 1995.

After the signing ceremony Army Gen. Pavel Grachev reminded journalists that there has been an irritating pause in Russian- Bulgarian military-technical cooperation. The reasons for this are well-known—restructuring phenomena both in our states' economic mechanisms and in the actual system of international ties. Now the potential for cooperation is being restored. What is more, close cooperation with Bulgaria is the strategic course of our states' leaders. And the remaining obstacles to military-technical cooperation, say, (for instance, the current 15-percent duty on shipments of arms, combat hardware, and equipment)—the Russian and Bulgarian defense ministers hoped—may be removed during Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's impending scheduled visit to Sofia.

The Russian defense minister did not hide Moscow's negative view of the prospects for the quantitative expansion of the NATO bloc via the admission of states bordering on Russia. A legitimate question arises, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said: To what end is this expansion being planned? People in the West are talking about reinforcing the bloc's political component and its role in ensuring all-around security in Europe. However we also understand security in the context of social, political, and economic problems. How can NATO handle them? Pavel Grachev said that we favor broadening the role of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] in coordinating the activity of existing European institutions—the CIS, the Western European Union, the European Union, etc.

When discussing the situation in the Balkans, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said, Dimitur Pavlov recalled the Bulgarian president's proposal that stability be secured in the region by creating a "security triangle" comprising Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey. However, how realistic is that suggestion given the complex relations between Turkey and Greece? Russia is banking on the efforts of the Contact Group, believing this to be the most promising avenue.

Answering journalists' questions, the Russian defense minister once again firmly stated the Russian leadership's desire to settle the situation in Chechnya peacefully. This means working at local level with elders and the local authorities, restoring the water and electricity supply for population centers, and reviving industrial enterprises in order that the Chechen people can see for themselves that all Russia is paying attention to their fate.

The Bulgarian defense minister's visit will end 11 March.

Turkish Group Said Sending 'Mojahedin' to Chechnya

MM0703130295 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 6

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya: "'Brothers In Islam' Fly to Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara—They were first heard of in Afghanistan, and then they appeared in Bosnia and Azerbaijan. Now their path leads to Chechnya.

In one week alone the number of people wanting to fight on Dzhokhar Dudayev's side with weapon in hand reached 2,645, and over 7,000 Turkish mojahedin have expressed the desire to "give assistance to their brothers in Islam" since 15 December.

It is hard to judge how realistic the claims made in the Turkish magazine NOKTA, which published these figures, are, but there is no doubting the fact that there have been cases of volunteers being sent to Chechnya. Particularly since Emir Kushdemira [name as transliterated], one of the leaders of the organization involved in sending volunteers to Chechnya and the main coordinator of the public journal "Sources of Islamic Order [Ochagi Islamskogo Poryadka]," has been sharing information on this subject.

"The Chechens are our brothers," he said. "We are acting as Muslims should act. Our people are prepared to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Chechens."

The mojahedin route runs from Istanbul to Moscow by plane, and from there with the help of Chechens living in Moscow to Azerbaijan, from whose territory they they reach the conflict zone.

As far as the armed volunteers from Turkey are concerned, according to Kushdemir there are around 2,000 of them in Chechnya today, and the majority are aged between 20 and 38. They have all undergone general military training, and some of them had served in "commando" subunits of the Turkish armed forces until 1980. It is possible that their experience and professional training will help the Turkish mojahedin to avoid losses. In any case, according to one of the leaders of the "Sources of Islamic Order" society, which operates under the wing of the small clerical Party of Great Unity, so far there has been no information about any losses among the volunteers, or indeed any information about people being captured.

Around 400 "Sources of Islamic Order" sections are operating in Turkey, and they sent volunteers to Azerbaijan at one time. However, like a number of other parties, which representatives of the "sources" are refusing to name, Kushdemir added that it is not obligatory to help the brothers with weapon in hand. A lot of people are giving assistance to the Chechens with money and clothing, sending packages from various parts of Turkey to the "Sources" headquarters.

There is also another organization in Turkey involved in giving assistance in Chechnya—the Center for Solidarity with the Caucasus Chechens. But its functions are limited to collecting financial, medical, and other humanitarian aid.

The confrontation in Chechnya, Emir Kushdemir claims, is growing into another Afghanistan, and the volunteers from Turkey will stand side by side with the Chechens.

Chernomyrdin, Omani Offical Agree on Caspian Pipeline

LD1003190495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Mar—Russia and Oman have confirmed the firmness of their intention to implement the large-scale project to construct a Caspian pipeline. This is the main result of the talks which took place in Moscow today between Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, and Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs of Oman.

"Both sides confirmed their sincere desire to implement this project," Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, who took part in the talks, said. He said that "practically all" the documents regulating relations between the participants in the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC)—Russia, Oman, and Kazakhstan—were signed earlier. The talks process will be continued on Saturday at the level of ministers of the sector.

The absence of representatives of Kazakhstan at the present talks in Moscow was a cause of some concern to the members of the Oman delegation. However, according to Yuriy Shafranik, Russian Federation minister of fuel and power engineering, the absence of the delegation from Kazakhstan is in no way connected with Almaty's attitude to the project.

The plan for constructing a pipeline hundreds of kilometers long is aimed at guaranteeing the advantageous transportation of the oil extracted on the shelf of the Caspian Sea.

Duma Committee Chairman Cited on Relations With Iran

LD0703142095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1122 GMT 7 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—"As multinational states Russia, Turkey, and Iran should know that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones." This is how Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma's committee for CIS affairs and ties with compatriots, summarized the results of a conference on Russian-Iranian relations. The conference was held in Tehran 3-6 March. ITAR-TASS was told this by the committee's press secretary over the telephone from Iran today.

According to Zatulin "if Russia intends to trade with Iran—then interference by the other states in these relations is inadmissible, as long as Russia and Iran are not violating international norms."

The chairman of the Duma's committee for CIS affairs and ties with compatriots was received by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Russia To Continue Oil Cooperation Talks With Iraq

LD1003145095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (PIA-Interfax)—Russia will continue the talks on cooperation in oil industry with Iraq "to an extent meeting its interests", Russia's Minister for Energy and Fuel Yuriy Shafranik told an Oman government delegation in Moscow Friday.

"We reaffirm our plans to actively cooperate with Baghdad. I hope to highlight our position during a trip to Iraq," said Shafranik.

Investments in the Russian-Iraqi oil projects may reach $1.5 billion, say Ministry experts who are currently studying the possibility of financing these projects on the condition that Iraq will supply Russia with oil after the oil embargo is lifted.

To date, Iraq's debt for the project in Western al-Qurnah and for the Nasiri-Baghdad gas pipeline amounts to about $400 million, and its total debt to Russia to $7 billion.

Shafranik also said that "political instability" had prevented the president or prime minister of Kazakhstan from coming to Moscow and holding tripartite talks Moscow-Muscat-Almaty which were to define financial guarantees to the first phase of a major export project, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium.

Head of the Oman delegation, Deputy Prime Minister Qays al-Zawawi said he was deeply disappointed with the absence of Kazakhstan representatives. Kazakhstan is under strong pressure from international financial organizations and the American Chevron, pushed out by Oman and Russia from the KTK project estimated at $1.7-1.8 billion.

Russia and Oman are planning to sign an agreement on cooperation in oil production and a special memorandum on mutual understanding on issues related to the KTK.

Foreign Ministry: 'Decisive Measures' Needed in Tajikistan

LD1003173395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Increased decisive measures by the world community are needed for ensuring peace and stability in Tajikistan, said a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry today, summing up the results of a visit to the Russian capital by U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Aldo Angello, who is conducting a mediation mission in organizing and holding inter-Tajik negotiations. The statement was received in ITAR-TASS today. The regular, fourth round of the talks will be, probably, held in Moscow in the near future.

A precise date for the talks is yet to be finalized. But Aldo Angello expressed the hope that they will be conducted either at the end of March or beginning of April 1995. The final choice for the dates and the venue will be made after consultations on unresolved questions with the U.N. mediation. Undoubtedly, Russia is prepared to receive participants in the talks in Moscow, however, she does not regard it as an absolute condition for continuing the dialogue, a high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR- TASS today.

The Russian Foreign Ministry statement noted that during his visit to Moscow Aldo Angello held meetings with officials of a number of ministries and departments. He was also received by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who expressed the hope that the world community will extend its support to the appeal made by five heads of state of the CIS countries to the chairman of the U.N. Security Council about starting a full U.N. peacekeeping operation in Tajiksitan.

Military Official Views Prospects of Arms Sales to China

LD1003175495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 10 (INTERFAX)—China would like to buy from Russia licenses for the manufacture of Su-27 operational aircraft, a Russian military source said.

"In principle, we have no objection to such a deal, but we believe it would make sense if before that China bought a large number - between 100 and 150 - of such aircraft," the source told INTERFAX. "This would be to the advantage not only of Moscow, whose defense enterprises are permanently short of contracts, but to that of Beijing as well."

Military contacts between the two countries are "on the ascent," the source said. "During a recent visit by the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrey Kozyrev, to Beijing, a Russian diesel-fueled submarine which had been sold to China was delivered to one of the Chinese ports. Under an existing contract, the People's Republic of China will receive another few submarines of the same class," he said.

Beijing is also interested in Russian-made surface vessels, he added.

Russia and China are also working on confidence-building measures for their border regions, the source continued.

"We may even come to an agreement to considerably reduce our armed forces deployed along the border. The problem here is to come to an agreement on some fairly important details. For example, our troops are concentrated on a narrow strip along the border, while the Chinese troops are deeply echeloned," he said.

The source said it had been proposed that the measures are based on the same principles as the treaty on the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe. The measures are to extend to the whole territory of the border regions of Russia and China, he said.

Ministry Official Views Upcoming Talks With Japan

LD0703192295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 7 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 7 TASS—There is no misunderstanding between Moscow and Tokyo concerning the fact that the problem of concluding a bilateral peace treaty exists.

We firmly intend to build relations with Japan on the basis of the Tokyo Declaration of 1993 and advance in considering this complex problem, but without rash hasty actions which could evoke misunderstanding from both sides.

This was stated by Vasiliy Dobrovolskiy, first deputy director of the Department of Asia of the Russian Foreign Ministry, here today. In his view, such a position of Russia "meets understanding by our Japanese colleagues".

As for the Russo-Japanese talks on Japanese fishing near southern Kuril Islands scheduled for March 13-14 in Moscow, the Russian diplomat admitted that they "will not be easy".

At the same time Vasiliy Dobrovolskiy expressed hope that these talks would produce positive results and allow to remove or essentially weaken the problem of poaching in Russian territorial waters which so far was an "irritant" in bilateral relations.

MiG-29 is 'Star' of Philippine Weapons Show

LD0703114695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 7 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Stanislav Bychkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore March 7 TASS—The fourth international weapons show and fair opened on the Philippines today, but its "star" is already known. It is the Russian multi-purpose MiG-29 fighter. This military aircraft, put on view by the Moscow Aircraft-Building Association, ITAR-TASS reports from Manila today, "has triggered particular interest". Demonstration flights of the MiG-29 fighter were held at the request of the show sponsors at the Villamor air force base near the town of Pasay before the opening of the fair. It was attended by commander of the Philippine Air Force Lieutenant-General Nikasio Rodriguez, who highly praised the Russian aircraft.

On view at the fair are numerous models of air force, naval, and ground hardware. The four major participants of the show include Russia, China, Ukraine, and South Africa.

Yeltsin To Go on Vacation 27 Mar

LD1303143895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 13 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will go on a two-week working vacation on March 27.

Yeltsin is expected to travel by train to visit Ryazan, Rostov- on-Don and Kislovodsk. He may as well extend his tour to several other towns and cities in central and southern Russia.

In Ryazan and Rostov-on-Don the Russian leader is likely to spend one or two days to leave more time for Kislovodsk. The president may also spend a couple of days at the end of his vacation in the resort city of Sochi on the Black Sea.

This year's vacation is consistent with the previous years' pattern when the president divided his vacation and spent part of it in early spring, reserving the rest of it for mid-summer.

The fact that the vacation will be a working one is not surprising either. Last August, the president took a trip down the Volga river, during which he visited several Russian towns.

Yeltsin: Russia's Revival Connected With Culture

LD0703203895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2000 GMT 7 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 7 TASS—"The revival of Russia is to a great extent connected with culture and humanitarian education", Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today at a meeting with actors and journalists in the foyer of the Maliy theater. The president took part in the opening ceremony of this theater.

"Now we are not already afraid of economics and do not fear material problems as we have overcome them," the head of the Russian state noted.

"But we cannot afford losing culture. It is necessary to raise its level so that it was really Russian culture of which we have been proud for centuries and should be proud for the next hundreds of years," Russian President Boris Yeltsin pointed out.

Kovalev Still Heads Russian Delegation at UN Human Rights Session

LD1003201795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1709 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 10 Mar—Sergey Kovalev still remains head of the Russian delegation at the 51st session of the UN Commission for human rights under way in Geneva. The Russian Duma's decision today has had no effect on his official status at the session. This was the explanation the ITAR-TASS correspondent received from the Russian delegation.

Reports from Moscow saying that the deputies of the State Duma have revoked last year's resolution according to which Sergey Kovalev occupies the post of the commissioner for human rights, have roused many perplexed questions in Geneva where the Russian human rights activist is well known for his speech at the session, his news conference, and a series of interviews in which he sharply criticized violations of human rights, by the federal forces as well, in Chechnya.

According to a representative of the Russian delegation, Sergey Kovalev was appointed head of the delegation by the Russian president. Therefore, the Duma's resolution does not affect his status in the delegation. Apart from that, judging from the explanation, the human rights activist continues to be chairman of the presidential commission for human rights.

Sergey Kovalev is in Paris at the moment. He is due to arrive in Geneva later tonight and he then leaves for Moscow on Saturday morning.

The 51st session of the UN human rights commission concludes its work today.

'Not Surprised' To Be Dismissed by Duma

LD1003211695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1954 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Bukalov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Genoa, 10 Mar— "I am not surprised by the State Duma's decision", Sergey Kovalyov commented on a report about his dismissal from the post of the Human Rights Commissioner. "It took far less time to do this than to appoint me," Kovalyov added.

Sergey Kovalyov made a speech today at the international conference "From Perestroyka to the Search for a New World Balance" held in Genoa. He said, in particular: "I am convinced that democracy is the political system that secures and protects human rights in society. That is why I remain an opponent to all sorts of 'special ways of development' for various countries and nations, including Russia. Strictly speaking, each nation has its special way, different from that of others. But words about a 'special way' mostly disguise substitution of the goals, and even worse, substitution of values. In the 20th century substitutions like this have already led countries and nations to a dead end, mostly bloody. The demands of the third millennium make these movements to dead ends an impermissible luxury not only for individual nations but also for the whole of mankind." [passage omitted]

Vows To Continue Human Rights Campaign

LD1203061995 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0500 GMT 12 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The human rights activist Sergey Adamovich Kovalev was also in Genoa. Before his departure for Moscow, our correspondent asked him a question: How does he feel about his dismissal from the post of human rights commissioner. Sergey Adamovich said he wants to see the document first. Kovalev assured the correspondent that he does not feel too anxious about it.

[Begin Kovalev recording] It does not distress me all that much. Not really. I have already explained this to Mr. Zhirinovskiy and in the press as well as to the Duma that people are not appointed human rights activists, they become them. I believe mine is a higher mandate than the one given by the Duma. This is all I have to say. I shall continue doing that which I have been doing, which, perhaps, will now be more difficult. It is rather inconvenient to give this post to an independent man in present-day Russia. It is inconvenient for many people. Because of the nature of his job the human rights commissioner will always be in opposition to authorities. And everyone who wants power does not like strong opposition. Such is the nature of the Russian political thought today. [end recording]

Yushenkov Resigns Duma Post in Protest at Kovalev Dismissal

LD1003133695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned that Sergey Kovalev is definitely not in Russia at the present time. He is in Hungary.

Moreover, in connection with the Duma's decision regarding the authorized human rights representative [on dismissing Kovalev], Sergey Yushenkov, head of the Duma Committee for Defense, is resigning from that post.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] The dismissal of Sergey Kovalev from the post of human rights commissioner has, in my view, dealt a serious blow at human rights in Russia in general. In this connection I no longer find it possible to remain in the post of chairman of the defense committee. I am laying down my powers. This evening the faction will adopt a specific decision; it is possible that all the members of the faction will also leave their relevant posts as a mark of solidarity with Sergey Adamovich [Kovalev]. [end recording]

Duma Defense Committee Chairman Interviewed

954F1617A St. Petersburg NEVSKOYE VREMYA in Russian 1 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, by Yuliya Kantor; place and date not given; under the rubric "Firsthand": "Sergey Yushenkov: Deputies Blame the Mirror"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kantor] Sergey Nikolayevich, as could be expected, the "Fascism in Russia" program that was recently broadcast on Russian television stirred up public opinion. What is your opinion of it?

[Yushenkov] I consider the behavior of the program's "hero"—RNE [Russian National Unity] leader Mr. Vedenkin—a bluff: He talked too insistently of his power. Nevertheless, to gloss over the appearance of such a figure is to overlook a much more important phenomenon. I absolutely do not rule out that behind the RNE are powerful structures that have at their disposal the so-called party gold. A professional investigation is needed to confirm or refute such statements. I would like to hope that the procuracy will diligently proceed with it.

[Kantor] The State Duma initially reacted to the program, but its indignation was aimed not at WHAT was in it but why the program was given air time. Do you not think that such misplacement of accents is not accidental?

[Yushenkov] No question about it. Once again parliament members have demonstrated the tenacity of our tradition—in certain situations to blame the mirror. Generally speaking, the current situation in Russia became a litmus test for various social institutes that have formed in the country lately. In my opinion, about the only ones that have passed the democratic test are the mass media.

[Kantor] In your opinion, what is the original cause of the political crisis in our country, the culmination of which we are witnessing today?

[Yushenkov] I am convinced that the protracted crisis was caused first of all by the split between the president and the democratic movement. As early as the summer of 1993 Boris Yeltsin lost the connection with the democratic movement, and after the 12 December elections he found himself not only outside the reformist forces but actually severed any contact with their representatives. Thus a regime established itself in Russia whose title is, as Mikhail Poltoranin aptly noted before, a "servocracy." Our country is now run by people appointed to various posts almost exclusively at the will of the president and who sometimes do not even possess the necessary constitutional powers.

[Kantor] Do you believe that the Chechen events were the logical continuation of such a political line?

[Yushenkov] The Chechen war does not have any rational reasons or justifications. And we should search for its roots precisely in the current course of the authorities. By the way, in addition to well-known figures, not the least role in this tragic development of events was played by the silent consent of the speakers of both parliamentary chambers. Their reluctance to defend the positions of the "party of peace" at the

Security Council to a considerable extent facilitated the tasks of those who supported the use of force in solving the Chechen problem.

[Kantor] What was your impression of Pavel Grachev's speech in the State Duma?

[Yushenkov] I felt completely empty inside. It does not make any sense to comment on the content of the minister of defense's report, since it is such that only fascists and communists can support it... The Chechen conflict revealed the contradictions between the formal doctrine of conducting a "little victorious war" and the hidden games of those who have an interest in it. Open blunders in the conduct of military operations and special services' activities is graphic proof of this. A characteristic example: Russian counterintelligence is seemingly frantically looking for the elusive Dudayev, while at the same time deputies and journalists have absolutely unimpeded access to him. Dudayev is elusive because nobody is trying to catch him.

Zhirinovskiy Denies Existence of Facism in Russia

LD0303155295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 3 (Interfax)—The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy denies the existence of fascism in Russia. There is not a single fascist organization in this country, he said Friday at a State Duma (lower chamber) news conference. Zhirinovskiy was asked how he felt about the arrest of the number two man of the Russian National Unity movement Aleksey Vedenkin.

Zhirinovskiy described Vedenkin as "a political adventurer" and "a Communist spy." He suggested that both Vedenkin and TV host Oleg Vakulovskiy who presented him in a TV broadcast "be taken to jail." Zhirinovskiy scorned the Russian TV company's decision to air what he described as "a provocational attempt to fool millions of TV viewers."

"When they attempt to brave challenges coming from other peoples, ethnic Russians act in self-defense and not because they preach fascism. If some boys enjoy marching with a swastika on their uniforms or singing Reich battle hymns, I take it that they are just showing off but they are professing no fascism," Zhirinovskiy said.

Zhirinovskiy Forecasts 1995 Elections, Warns of Army's Role

LD0403174095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 4 (INTERFAX)—The leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said Saturday that parliamentary elections would "inevitably" be held this year. Otherwise, the army would come to play "the most active role in national life."

At a traditional Saturday meeting with voters Zhirinovskiy declared that he was speaking "in parables so as to remain on speaking terms with the Prosecutor's Office." Nonetheless, the message of his words was absolutely clear, Zhirinovskiy said.

Zhirinovskiy described Yegor Gaydar as a "schizophrenic" and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Boris Fedorov - as "CIA agents," and accused ex-president Gorbachev of making a cynical bid for power. He suggested that Gorbachev be exiled to "some place on the Island of Sakhalin."

Zhirinovskiy accused Boris Yeltsin of offering key positions to "those who came from the Urals."

Zhirinovskiy described himself as "the only spotlessly clean leader who is worthy of top positions." He called on an estimated 20 million of his supporters to "talk another one or two voters each into" casting ballots for his party and thus insuring a Liberal-Democratic majority in parliament.

LDPR Deputy Marychev Questions Zhirinovskiy's Mental Health

LD1003151995 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's Duma sitting Vyacheslav Marychev, a deputy from the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], put on a white medical gown and raised the question of the need to submit Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to a medical check to verify his mental health. Zhirinovskiy's fellow faction member thinks that it is necessary to conduct such a check because while in Iraq Zhirinovskiy had put on [Saddam] Husayn's gown and ran around the palace thinking that he was the president of Iraq. Also, when he was in India he declared that Pakistan and Bangladesh should be annexed to it. Vyacheslav Marychev said that Zhirinovskiy seemed to be suffering from the inflammation of the frontal lobe of the brain.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy riposted at today's news conference that Vyacheslav Marychev was uncontrollable, and all he wanted was to go on stage and try on various hats, knickers, and cuff-links.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy also said that Vyacheslav Marychev would be expelled from both the [parliamentary] faction and the LDPR itself on 15 March, POSTFAKTUM agency reported.

Zhirinovskiy Warns Against U.S., PRC, 18-25 Mar Coup

LD1103203195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Mar 11 (INTERFAX-WEST)—The leader of the Russian Liberal-Democratic

Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that "Russia faces two main adversaries-the United States and China, which are anxious to destroy it." Zhirinovskiy was speaking at a Belarusian Liberal-Democratic convention Saturday in Minsk.

In his view, "the enemies of Russia" have already met their objective by [6]0

. They masterminded the emergence of the "deadborn Commonwealth of Independent States", provoked armed conflicts in Russia, are responsible for the flow of refugees and rampant crime and "force the Russians to buy chewing gum and Snickers bars that Slavic stomachs refuse to digest."

According to Zhirinovskiy, "it was the West who provoked the Chechen conflict."

China prints geographic maps that show the Russian Far East as part of China and, Zhirinovskiy said, millions of Chinese troops have been put on combat alert and will "use the existing subterranean pass to break into Russia."

Zhirinovskiy accused the West of using the Yeltsin-Luzhkov differences as a pretext for a coup d'etat that is to take place on March 18 to 25 in Russia.

If the coup falls through, "two Russian nuclear power stations will be blown up and a U.S.-led UN contingent will enter Russia on the pretext of protecting the remaining nuclear power plants," Zhirinovskiy told the Liberal-Democratic convention in Minsk.

Gaydar Says Reform Needs Structural Changes

LD0403145495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 4 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 4 (Interfax)—The democratic coalition's victory during the forthcoming parliamentary elections "may give a strong impetus to the radical economic reform," leader of the Democratic Choice of Russia party Yegor Gaydar told Interfax on Friday [3 March] night upon his return from a seven-day tour of the Urals and Siberia.

He welcomed the Chernomyrdin government's transition to "more radical methods of implementing the economic reform", but noted that "this transition must be backed up with structural changes, as well, above all in the government system and the armed forces."

Addressing Omsk students last Friday, he said that the armed forces and military spending must be cut down, and that students of higher educational establishments should not be conscripted to the army. "Instead of maintaining four poorly-equipped and badly trained divisions, one should better set up one well-equipped and trained division," said Gaydar.

Speaking about the nearest plans, Gaydar said that "the parliament must adopt without delay, possibly next week, the 1995 budget in the forth reading. In March, he went on to say, the State Duma will debate the draft law on elections which is vitally important for the Democratic Choice of Russia and all democratic forces.

Speaking about the first-priority draft laws to be discussed by the parliament shortly, he put a special accent on the three variants of the law on local self-government. The State Duma will also discuss a new version of the land code, "compiled" from the drafts proposed by the government and experts of the Gaydar party.

'Women of Russia' Ready To 'Work With' Any President

MK0403122595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Petr Polonitskiy under the "Guest" rubric: "The Number of Women in Parliament Is 'Deplorably Small.' Mrs. Lakhova Ready To 'Work' With Any President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yekaterina Lakhova, leader of the Duma "Women of Russia" faction, told her voters in Bryansk Oblast the faction is ready to work together with any president. The faction is "working" with Boris Yeltsin "but it is prepared to work with anyone—with Yeltsin today, or with Zyuganov if Zyuganov comes along tomorrow...." (Yekaterina Lakhova was a presidential aide, now she heads the Commission on the Affairs of Mothers and Children under Boris Yeltsin).

Mrs. Lakhova said "Women of Russia" bear no responsibility for the reforms because they never started them and are, presumably, not continuing them. In Mrs. Lakhova's view, they are in no position, owing to their small numbers, to get decisions made precisely by women approved by legislative bodies. In all likelihood, male deputies are closely watching women's attempts to push through any drafts and cutting them short. According to Yekaterina Lakhova, women legislators constitute 11 percent of the deputies, and it should be at least 30 percent.

Baburin's RPU Said Gearing Up for Elections

MK0703073095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Opposition" rubric: "RPU Starts To Prepare for Election Campaign. Creation of an Opposition Coalition Does Not So Far Attract Communists and Agrarians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Baburin, leader of the "Russian Public Union" [RPU] [Rossiyskiy Obshchenarodnyy Soyuz], told a press conference yesterday that the RPU has started preparations for the parliamentary and presidential elections. The questions of preparation for the election campaign will be taken up at the Fourth RPU Congress Scheduled for 25 March.

The RPU leader voiced regret over the only partial success that could be achieved in uniting the opposition forces—the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the Agrarian Party of Russia have not joined the coalition consisting of seven parties and movements. According to Mr. Baburin, the RPU is ready to participate in the election struggle both on its own and as part of a broad-based opposition coalition. Sergey Baburin, however, believes that the elections to the State Duma are of a secondary nature, and as far as the presidential elections are concerned, the opposition will "come to its senses" before them and nominate a single candidate.

The communist and patriotic opposition are likely to be experiencing the same problems as are the democratic forces—all attempts at forming election coalitions end at the preliminary talks stage. Politicians of all movements and trends cannot regard the struggle for seats in a new State Duma as serious enough to temper their own ambitions somewhat. However, after the parliamentary elections results have been summed up (if they take place, that is), and with presidential election around the corer, the very idea of bringing together political forces that are close in spirit will enjoy greater popularity and the forming of coalitions will move faster.

RNU Representative Says Prosecutor's Office Stole Material

LD0303175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 3 (INTERFAX)—Several days ago employees of the Prosecutor's Office confiscated materials from the Russian National Unity movement (RNU) which compromise "several top-ranking state employees" and testify to "an anti-constitutional and anti-presidential conspiracy which is participated in by well-known officials, banking and commercial structures," the RNU representatives declared at a press conference in Moscow Friday.

According to Larisa Dementyeva, lawyer of this extreme right-wing organization, employees of the Prosecutor's Office "have stolen" two folders with documents and several video- and audio cassettes in the course of the search in one of the commercial structures close to the RNU on February 28.

Dementyeva reported that these materials were handed over to Aleksandr Barkashov "by people preferring to remain anonymous, so that he would hand them over to the State Duma Security Commission and other competent bodies bypassing the General Prosecutor's Office and the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service]."

RNU Press Secretary Aleksandr Rashitskiy declared at a press conference that Aleksandr Vedenkin, who was arrested on February 28 and who was presented as deputy leader of this organization, "has nothing to do with the Russian National Unity." Rashitskiy called Vedenkin, against whom criminal charges were brought on suspicion of stirring up ethnic hatred, "an ordinary swindler who plays the political field."

Meanwhile, Aleksey Khinshtein, correspondent of the MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper, demonstrated to journalists copies of several documents which confirm Vedenkin's membership in the RNU, in response Rashitskiy declared: "One can just as easily forge credentials of a State Duma member or of a FCS employee."

Congress of Anti-Fascist Forces Planned

LD0303155495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1450 GMT 3 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—The organisational committee, set up to convene here a congress of anti-fascist forces, is to assess the real menace of fascism in Russia. The first meeting of the committee is being held in the administration of the Russian president today. Andrey Loginov, chief of the department for relations with parties and public movements under the presidential administration, told ITAR-TASS that in his opinion "this anti-fascist congress is not being called for the sake of sheer rhetorics and should not be a one-time function".

Loginov believes that the anti-fascist congress should be turned into a standing body, which would work with the army and the young people, would actively influence Russia's public opinion. "This work needs genuine adherents, not politicians eager to use the anti-fascist trump card in the elections campaign," Loginov stressed.

Chubays Praises Financial Discipline Edict

MM0603133695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Ostrovskiy: "An Inflation Edict Is Not an Edict? Aleksandr Livshits Is Prepared To Wager Any Amount With People Who Believe That Is So"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, A. Livshits said, we are introducing you to three edicts which will be the first of many. These documents will form the basis of the implementation of the president's promises and of the government program.

There is no doubt that for many months to come the public's attention will be focused on Edict No. 226 "On Measures To Strengthen Financial Discipline in the Implementation of the Federal Budget."

The experience of the recent past shows that amendments and adjustments are constantly made during the implementation of the budget. As a rule their implementation required additional money emission, the only effect of which was to accelerate the spiral of inflation even more.

Let us hope that henceforth, after the signing of Edict No. 226, such lax treatment of the budget will be impossible. Any additional expenditure not envisaged by the federal budget can only happen on the basis of an edict from the president. The basis for that is a government decree which has to indicate either the additional sources of revenue or budget items of expenditure which will be reduced.

"Now," First Vice Premier A. Chubays stated, "the government is looking for scope to provide financial assistance to the countryside for carrying out the spring sowing. I can say this spending will be crried out only within the framework of the budget."

In the opinion of the first vice premier and aide to the president, tough financial discipline and a steady budget will be the basis of financial stabilization and the main reason for the reduction in the rate of inflation.

"As is well known, A. Livshits noted, "inflation in January was 17.8 percent. In February it fell to 12-13 percent. In March it will be lower than in February and April's figure will be lower than March's. I am ready to bet on that with anyone who does not believe it."

The next presidential edict is "On the Procedure for Streamlining the State Regulation of Prices and Tariffs." It is real confirmation of the course of the president and the government toward developing the reforms and establishing a market economy in Russia. Whereas at present 22-23 percent of prices and tariffs on goods and services are state regulated, in the near future that figure will fall to 15-16 percent.

The state reserves the right to regulate prices and tariffs in sectors which are natural monopolies. That is the aim of the third edict, entitled "On Some Measures for the State Regulation of Natural Monopolies in the Russian Federation." Henceforth the following are to be regarded as natural monopolies: the extraction, processing, and transport of gas, oil and oil products, and electricity, rail transport services, and electronic [elektricheskiyy] and postal communications. Prices and tariffs in these sectors will also be regulated by special federal structures.

A. Chubays introduced journalists to some fundamentally new government approaches to socioeconomic problems. For example, the number of organizations which enjoy tax and export-import concessions is being reduced. For organizations such as the invalids' fund, for example, those concessions will be replaced in the budget by state compensation totaling $250 billion. The reason for this measure is that budget losses from these tax concessions are three to 10 times higher than the benefit to the organizations in need of support.

Agrarians Hold Press Conference on Return From Chechnya

MK0303092095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksey Kirpichnikov under the "Projects" rubric: "Seed of Peace Falls on Chechnya as Spring Sowing Comes. Agrarian Party of Russia Goes All-Russian"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] and its State Duma faction gave a press conference on their return from Chechnya, sharing their impressions of the visit and reading out their party's appeal "in connection with the situation in the agro-industrial complex of the Chechen Republic" and a statement on the state of the same complex nationwide.

The "Chechen" part of the oral and written statements by the party and its faction chairman Mikhail Lapshin and the other Agrarians boils down to the following. First, the consequences of Dzhokhar Dudayev's rule and elimination of this rule are horrible and they look even more horrible on the spot than as seen in Moscow in television reports. The system of agriculture has been ruined almost completely (but not completely, Mr. Lapshin stressed with optimism) which threatens famine and poverty to all people in the republic regardless of nationality or attitudes to this or that leader. Second, Chechen peasants and heads of the few surviving farms turned for help to the Agrarian Party leaders who will pass on this plea to all Russian peasants and heads of many surviving farms to ship to Chechnya seeds, fodder, spare parts, fuel and lubricants and to help out with personnel. Third, the party suggests a moratorium on military operations in Chechnya for the duration of the spring sowing.

The journalists' bewilderment at the latter point—why sow if they'll burn it up later?—was countered by this piece of peasant wisdom: First they won't shoot when the sowing is on, then when the weeding is on, then when the watering is on, then when the mowing is on, and then harvesting will be around the corner.... The question on how to sow mined fields drew a "call of the earth" response.

Finally, the fourth impression from the visit to Chechnya by Mr. Lapshin was the clearly felt desire of the local population to join the Agrarian Party, demonstrated in the creation of a Chechen party organization and the formation of its leadership. From now on APR structures encompass all components of the Russian Federation.

The statement on the situation in the APR and the whole of Russia contains the usual and—for the Agrarians—logical words about the economic situation, social distribution, and availability of fertilizers. The statement is crowned by a snatch from the popular sexual prowess guessing game: "Does today's authority have what it takes?—the ruling regime is not up to it."

Minister Says Dudayev Militants Receive Turkish Funding

LD0303152595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 3 (Interfax)—A Dudayev sharpshooter receives $1,500 for a night duty. The statement was made for Interfax Friday by member of the government commission for restoring

Chechen economy, Russian Railways Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev, who recently returned from Groznyy.

The minister also said that one of the religious leaders who regularly visits the militant-controlled regions told the commission members about the funding of Dudayev's units. Fadeyev said that a mufti, whom he did not name, was recently present during the ceremony of the handing over to Chechen commanders of money received from Turkey. According to Fadeyev, the commanders received $150,000-$170,000 each.

Fadeyev also said that, according to the military, around 16,000 well-trained militants are operating in Chechnya.

North Caucasian Conference To Be Held on Chechnya

LD0403121195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 4 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz March 4 TASS—An agreement was reached to hold a mid-March conference on national reconciliation in Chechnya in one of North Caucasian cities, ITAR-TASS was told today by Smidt Dzoblayev, member of the Russian Presidential Public Chamber, secretary general of the Russian Assembly of Democratic and National Patriotic Forces.

The conference is to adopt a national accord charter.

Dzoblayev visited the Northern Caucasus together with Public Chamber member Lieutenant-General Sergey Maslov to meet leaders of the region's republics, the Russian president's representative in Chechnya Nikolay Semyonov and Chairman of the Chechen Provisional Council Umar Avturkhanov.

They also had meetings with Chechen eldermen, religious leaders and Dudayev's field commanders.

According to Dzoblayev, arrangements for the reconciliation conference were discussed during those meetings.

Dzoblayev said ideas of the would-be charter was reconciliation of Chechnya's forces with different political stances and preparation for elections on the basis of the Chechen and Russian constitutions.

Delegates of the Russian president and government will take part in organising the conference. The Chechen Provisional Council proposed that leaders of the North Caucasian republics and territories be invited to the conference, Dzoblayev said.

Democrats Show 'Little Interest' in Small Farmers' Forum

MK0303111595 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 3

[Natalya Arkhangelskaya report: "Put in a Word for the Poor Farmer..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past two days, in the capital's Kosmos hotel, a congress of the Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives [AKKOR] was held, with approximately 1,000 delegates in attendance. The problems raised by the congress are hardly new: Insufficient state support for the emerging private rural sector, land shortages, and the vulnerability of farmers. The delegates were addressed by two vice premiers of the Russian Government: Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who promised farmers assistance from the state pocket. First Vice Premier Chubays, moreover, expressed his confidence that "Russia has relied and will continue to rely on the countryside."

To be absolutely accurate, there were only 400 AKKOR delegates in the hall. The rest—private farmers—represented the recently formed Union of Russian Landowners [URL], which has not yet been registered. The URL differs from AKKOR in that it hopes to draw on a broader social base—all private landowners: from city dwellers who have their dachas and owners of smallholdings to Cossacks and former kolkhoz members. The URL was initiated—and not just for the fun of it—by AKKOR Chairman Vladimir Bashmachnikov himself: In the tough political struggles for reform in the countryside the private sector today has little to put up against the powerful agrarian lobby as represented by the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] of Mikhail Lapshin (known in the vernacular as the "chairmen's party") and the Agrarian Union of Vasiliy Starodubtsev, former member of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. The latter have been heavily criticizing AKKOR, charging it (not without reason) with seeking to split the countryside. That there is still "no peace under the olive trees" was evident from the fact that on the day the congress opened, the APR leadership circulated an appeal among the delegates calling on them to "say 'no' to any attempts to split the Russian peasantry, and to support the APR, which firmly and steadfastly upholds the interests of rural workers." Curiously, none of the APR leaders, in spite of the invitation, came to the congress personally to address the delegates. They had other things to do. APR leader Lapshin went to Chechnya to create a regional branch of his party. Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk deemed it more important personally to welcome a delegation of Kansas farmers. It is noteworthy that the U.S. farmers, conversely, did not consider it a chore to fly across the ocean in order to discuss and sign an agreement at the congress between their organization Farm Bureau and AKKOR.

It has to be admitted that the democratic public showed little interest in the congress. Invitations were sent to Boris Fedorov, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, and Yegor Gaydar. None of them showed up. Bashmachnikov suggested that these politicians take no interest in the small private farmer, which is a pity. Shortly before the 1993 elections AKKOR joined the Russia's Choice election bloc but things have been a little sour between Bashmachnikov and Gaydar since then. Last fall, their joint press conference on a possible cooperation agreement was twice scheduled and canceled. It is being said that this was the fault of Bashmachnikov, unhappy over how AKKOR has been paid for its election support. Only Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin, in a characteristic show of political wisdom, sent his greetings to the congress.

Chubays, Shmakov Cited on Outcome of Government-FITUR Talks

MK0403073095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Andrey Nikolayev under the "Talks" rubric: "Government Displays Readiness To Pay Wage Backlogs. Trade Unions and Finance Ministry Look for a 'Legitimate Way'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's talks in the White House between the Russian Federation Government and leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] considered behind closed doors a range of questions pertaining to the all-Russian trade unions' demands to the government to pay up wage backlogs and take urgent measures to end the growth of mass unemployment.

Summing up the talks, to which journalists were admitted only during the initial five minutes of formalities, First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays and FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov explained the talks' private nature by the fact that "the most terrible thing in life is to see the process involved in sausage production." "Something like that" was happening at the talks, they said. Besides, in the view of the contracting sides, "the production process" sometimes substitutes the result. The government and the FITUR wanted to post the press on the main outcome of the talks. The more so because the two sides, as was stated, managed "to agree on some things."

Anatoliy Chubays specially noted that the things agreed on are not so much the result of long spadework as evidence of the intention to get a serious project under way based on regular consultations making it possible to resolve the most acute problems. He stressed that both the government and the trade unions "are aware" of the fact that the problems of paying up outstanding wages and ending the growth of unemployment cannot be solved overnight. Proceeding from this, the sides agreed at this stage to draw up a "joint action plan" under which the government and FITUR will check whether funds, including those from the federal budget, are used for purposes other than the social sphere support, because there is evidence that they are being spent for other purposes. Second, they decided to draw up and approve schedules to be followed as regards outstanding payments for state orders. Third, they agreed that the trade unions will participate in the final stage of drawing up a three-year government program which is expected to be put to a full scale sitting of the cabinet of ministers at the end of March.

According to Mikhail Shmakov, the participation of the trade unions in drawing up the government program will give them a chance to study this document in detail and to put in their remarks and suggestions in good time. It was agreed that all the other trade unions' demands, with the exception of unpaid wages, will be looked on within the framework of the currently operating trilateral commission on the regulation of social and labor disputes.

Anatoliy Chubays and Mikhail Shmakov also told the journalists that they pin great hopes on their next meeting. During the time before it, the trade unions together with the Finance Ministry are supposed to find a legitimate way to start paying wage arrears. In this event the government, it is assumed, will make a corresponding decision on the beginning of payment, Mr. Shmakov said.

Yerin: Crime Detection Rate 'Unsatisfactory'

MM0303150595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Yerin Dissatisfied"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at an enlarged session of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office Collegium Wednesday (1 March), Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin stressed that the crime detection rate remains unsatisfactory. Last year it proved impossible to identify the culprits in one murder in four, INTERFAX reports.

No 'Radical Changes' to Law Enforcement in Moscow

LD0603203795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 6 (Interfax)—Moscow law enforcement will continue work as usual without introducing any radical changes into its everyday activities, Major-General Nikolay Kulikov told Interfax today.

Kulikov was appointed as the acting head of the Moscow Main Law Enforcement Department on the same day after Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin dismissed from this post Lieutenant-General Vladimir Pankratov.

Kulikov said he believed that the police's main job at present is to prevent further deterioration of the criminal situation in the capital, to reenforce order in the streets and public places "so that people can move around town freely." He sad it was also necessary to prevent law enforcement officers from leaving the department after the appointment of a new chief.

Kulikov said the leaders of the Main Law Enforcement Department had met this evening. Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Yegorov read out the order on Kulikov's appointment

(Interior Minister Viktor Yerin was taking part in the meeting of the Russian Security Council at the moment—IF).

The chief officials of the Moscow Main Law Enforcement Department were briefed on the plan for fighting crime in the Russian capital taking into consideration the past errors of the Moscow police, Kulikov said.

Increased Funding for Science Considered Unlikely

MK0403122595 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Andrey Vaganov under the "Details" rubric: "Science in Russia Is Beloved Again—at Last. A Royal Gift From Russian Federation Duma Deputies May Become a Heavy Burden for the Federal Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The last 10 days of February were clearly blessed with the particular attention of the legislative and executive power bodies to the fate of Russian science. They included a hearing in the Russian Federation State Duma on the activities of the International Science Fund (Soros Foundation); a government meeting on 23 February devoted largely to the problems of financing science; and, finally, the adoption on the third reading of the 1995 budget, in which expenditures in articles on scientific research were adjusted.

If at least some of the decisions, made after the government meeting, are implemented, the fate of Russian science may well change for the better. It is noteworthy that the Government has, at last, acknowledged and realized that "the threat of ruining the scientific and technological potential of the country as well as outstanding scientific schools is quite real." Hence, there is also a real danger that the national security of Russia may be irreversibly undermined. From now on, the priority directions of the development of science and technology as well as the national list of critical technologies are to be approved by the Governmental Commission on Science and Technology Policy headed by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

As Mikhail Kirpichnikov, head of the Department of Science and Education of the Russian Federation Government, told the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, the government is presently working on several documents dealing with three major issues—structural rearrangements in field of science, establishment of a legal basis for science, and financial support for the development of science in Russia.

According to available information: The Russian Federation Finance Ministry has been ordered to raise funds to pay the amount owed to science for 1994 (about one trillion rubles); salaries of scientific workers should be raised at least to the average salary level in the country (they now are only 70 to 75 percent of that level); it has been decided to exempt imported (and exported) research materials and equipment from customs duties; the Russian Federation Ministry of Science has been ordered to certify the entire network of scientific institutions and to prepare to create a State Registry by the end of 1995. Other important measures are also envisioned.

The most important action, however, probably was the decision to provide funds in the draft federal 1996 budget to finance research and development works for civil purposes. These funds are to be no less than three percent of the total expenditures of the budget, with a subsequent increase in that percentage. (In the draft 1995 budget, this figure is just a little over two percent). At the same time, in the first quarter of this year a draft doctrine on development of Russian science is to be prepared and submitted to the Government. In the third quarter of 1995, a draft law on the Russian Academy of Sciences as well as branch academies must be generated, which should regulate relations between the numerous academies and the federal executive and management bodies on issues of property.

All good intentions of the government, however, may be upset by the equally good motives of the legislative branch of power. The problem is that in the third reading of the budget, on 24 February, an adjustment was made raising expenditures for science by 1.7 trillion rubles (!) at the expense of state management costs. The amendment was proposed by deputy Nikolay Vorontsov ("Russia's Choice"). A total of 314 deputies—a constitutional majority—voted for it. Interestingly, just before the ballot, the legislators had turned down an amendment, proposed by deputy Shevelukha (Russian Federation Communist Party) suggesting a similar adjustment in favor of science at the expense of the costs for foreign economic activities.

In making this decision, the deputies probably hoped to harass, first of all, the government. In fact, however, they "harassed" the entire financial structure of the state—expenses for state management— mainly including maintenance costs for customs, courts of law, tax services, etc. Deputy Aleksandr Pochinok, for instance, said that this decision would break the financial back of the state. Mr. Pochinok himself, however, had voted "for" the decision. This budget-related populism played a bad trick not only on him: Expenses for the maintenance of the deputy corps, among others, also will have to be downsized (by about 40 percent). This decision, however, may carry a much greater danger than the probability of making deputies tighten their belts.

With considerable effort, the 1995 budget for science could be increased by 600 billion rubles (300 billion for fundamental science and 300 billion for civilian space programs). In addition, it was virtually agreed to allocate another 300 billion rubles for financial support to science. And now, on the eve of the last reading, it is not quite clear what sum should be distributed among specific items—1.7 trillion, plus 600 billion, or 1.7 trillion already including the 600 billion?

It is quite obvious that the decision to allocate 1.7 trillion rubles, in reality, cannot be fulfilled. It may be sabotaged in two ways: by the apparatchiks or by legal means. In the latter case, the country will continue to remain without a budget for the next one or two months. As the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent learned from well-informed sources, Boris Saltykov, Russian Federation minister for science and technology policy, categorically refuses to allocate these 1.7 trillion rubles. He fears that deputies, during the last ballot on the budget, may reduce the legitimate 600 billion rubles which were so hard to raise just for revenge.

Media Issues

IZVESTIYA Journalist Receives Death Threat

MM0303143895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by IZVESTIYA News Desk Editor Andrey Illesh: "'We Will Get You....'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I would not like to link these two events—the murder of a television star and the threats against Boris Reznik, our correspondent in Khabarovsk. But it was the case that the news desk learned of these two events at virtually the same time—Wednesday evening [1 March].

In what way did Boris displease the local mafiosi? Over the last few years he has published in IZVESTIYA a number of brilliant journalistic investigations exposing powerful criminal groupings operating in the Far East which have good links with the capital. The following happened after the articles, which the authorities ignored—as is now the custom—(apart from the law-enforcement and Far East authorities)

At around 1800 hours (local time) 28 February a man telephoned the IZVESTIYA office and asked whether he could meet with Boris Reznik for a few minutes on a very important matter. When asked "Who are you?" he replied: "I am a former KGB staffer." The correspondent agreed.

The caller arrived a few minutes later and said: There is another man waiting downstairs in the car, a businessman who will tell you something very important—it is a question of a planned attack.

This conversation took place and it became clear that the journalist's life was indeed in danger. It emerged that a "shady" structure had "put out a contract" on Reznik.

All this could very well have been taken as just another attempt to intimidate a journalist (this has already happened) were it not for the involvement of a man who had recently been a high-ranking KGB official.

Reznik informed the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] leadership of the "contract." Both these organizations took the matter seriously: Lieutenant General V. Pirozhnyak, chief of the FCS Khabarovsk Kray Directorate, and V. Balanev, chief of the Kray Internal Affairs Directorate, issued a joint order creating a special investigative group, and criminal proceedings were instituted under Article 207—"Death Threats." Reznik's office, apartment, and family were put under OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] guard.

I must say (having experienced for myself over an 18-month period threats of reprisals against myself, my wife, and my son) that journalistic investigations into the activity of the "new Russians," as they are called in the West, is a dangerous business for the authors. But the authorities' total indifference to these articles is the most dangerous thing of all. Their behavior provides not only an opportunity for countless mafia heroes to calmly go about their business and strengthen their "Kremlin" and other ties, but also to hold their own "trials." Our helplessness is obvious—few people really pay attention to the press. There are hundreds of examples of this. That's not all. Retaliation against journalists follows immediately and in the spirit of the times: The "aggrieved" people (Businessmen? Thieves? Politicians?—I do not know what to call them) file charges against the newspaper. Of late there have been plenty of these "trials" in respect of the news desk. It is paradoxical but a fact that criminals are easily becoming prosecutors and even winning trials. The bandits' political rise continues....

In the Boris Reznik saga the editorial office is grateful to Khabarovsk's power structures, which were so prompt in taking a serious view of the situation. And the editorial office has information as to the source of the threat to IZVESTIYA's journalist. I am convinced that in this case the criminals will not dare take real action. However, they will get away scot-free [postradat ne postradayut]....

Witness Says Murdered TV Chief 'Anticipated' Danger

LD0603065695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 6 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 6 (TASS)—Vladislav Listyev, a noted Russian tv journalist, who was assassinated on Wednesday, had anticipated that something might go wrong with him, a witness said.

The man told police that he had noticed the popular journalist in a metro station not long before the murder. Listyev was speaking over a pay phone and the witness said he had heard him say that "something may happen to me."

The witness said Listyev looked depressed and dismal, TASS learned from investigators on Monday.

The report seems to be rather contradicting as Listyev had a cellular phone which was found at the site of the assassination and did not have to use a pay phone.

Investigators told TASS they are now probing possible economic reasons of the killing and have to study in detail all financial documents concerned with the public Russian Television which is being created on the basis of the major national "Ostankino" TV channel.

Listyev was appointed director general of the public Russian TV in January 1995.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Grachev Orders Gromov Staff To Vacate Offices

LD1303094195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several officers from the defense minister's staff this morning arrived at the premises occupied by former Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov and demanded that the premises be vacated by 1400, referring to orders from Pavel Grachev.

Guards have now been removed from the premises. In addition, Gromov's staff have not been allowed to start work.

Deynekin Defends Air Force's Chechnya Role

MM0303141095 Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Mar 95 p 5

[Interview with P.S. Deynekin, commander in chief of Russian Air Force, by Yuriy Dmitriyev and Nikolay Kishkin; in Moscow, date not given: "Air Force Commander in Chief Petr Deynekin: 'I Am Prepared To Account for Every Aerial Bomb...'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] What happened in the air over Chechnya? This question, which still gives rise to sharp disputes, was the main subject of the meeting at the editorial office with P.S. Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force. Today we publish a brief record of that conversation, bearing in mind that it does not, of course, claim to "close" the debate.

[TRUD] Petr Stepanovich, let's start nonetheless with the person of Dzhokhar Dudayev. For he was for many years directly subordinate to you, when you were in command of long-range aviation.

[Deynekin] It was in this branch, equipped with strategic missile-carrying aircraft, that Dudayev rose through the service to command a division which was no worse than others. Of course, the general himself did not shine with any outstanding talent, but he performed meticulous service.

The breakup of the Union, the changes in our society, and other factors, particularly when he reappeared in his motherland after being away for almost 20 years, drastically changed his views, positions, and character. Maybe this is understandable, for the entire Muslim world knows well the participation of Dudayev and his division in bombing raids in Afghanistan, particularly at the time of the withdrawal from there of B. Gromov's 40th Army, as well as the conferment of a combat order on him and the general's rank that he received for that. He had to change his image.

[TRUD] And yet, about the bombing raids. What did and did not happen?

[Deynekin] We started at the end of last November. Air reconnaissance reported that over 200 aircraft—both transports and combat training aircraft ready to load ammunition—were concentrated at Dudayev's airports. There was talk of 100kg bombs and rockets. There were helicopters too and also the private presidential TU-134. We established that there were plans to bomb Russian cities. Crews had been assigned to groups, and each one knew its own route and which targets to act against. You can imagine what a disaster was averted by destroying the illegal air grouping. Particularly as Dudayev had already trained several dozen of his own pilots and sent approximately 40 to Turkey for training.

[TRUD] But where did Dudayev get the aircraft from? The press has repeatedly mentioned your name in connection with the unauthorized seizure of Russian weapons and their transfer to Dudayev.

[Deynekin] I must state responsibly: Dudayev did not get from the Air Force a single screw, landing gear, or cotter pin, still less a combat aircraft. Chechnya appropriated DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy] aircraft and the Air Defense and Aeroflot aviation schools.

[TRUD] Did you have personal contact with Dudayev?

[Deynekin] I went to Chechnya after August 1991. I was sent there the first time by Khasbulatov, speaker of the then Supreme Soviet, to persuade Dudayev to return to the ranks of the Armed Forces. I was not successful. Taking his leave of me by the aircraft steps at 0300 hours, he told me that it was already too late, for he had made the final decision to remain in Chechnya.

Then I flew with Generals Gromov and Prudnikov. There was one task—to persuade Dudayev to peacefully release our servicemen and their family members and not to create obstacles in their way. Our last meeting was in connection with the funeral of a hero—the Ingush pilot S. Askanov, who died during a test flight. I was with Grachev, who was then still deputy minister of defense. We chatted about life, as it were, and recalled past times. And we flew off. That's all. With this, contact ceased. Only recently I received from Dudayev a brief telegram with a thinly veiled threat in connection with the destruction of his aircraft: "...I congratulate you on achieving supremacy in the air. Let's meet on the ground...."

What happened next is well known. It was very hard for us, the Russian military command, to select the methods of armed struggle and to undertake bombing raids. But there was no other way out. You will recall how, when our ground troops were advancing to blockade Groznyy, illegal formations literally fell upon regiments and battalions, burned armored hardware and artillery, and killed people. These attacks took place in regions between Chechnya and Ingushetia, in places where the border between the republics has not yet been exactly defined. The only possibility of helping the soldiers was from the air. In the suburbs of Groznyy and in the city itself we made precision strikes only against military targets, concentrations of gunmen, command posts, tank repair shops, and the lair of Dudayev himself. Unfortunately, we were hindered by mist and low cloud cover. We also made use of aerial illumination bombs and carried out air reconnaissance continuously. The Air Force stopped the bombing raids on Groznyy. Not one bomb fell on the city itself after 24 December.

The weather turned out excellent 29 and 30 December, and the city was clearly visible. The possibility of using high-precision weapons arose. But we did not violate the president's ban on the use of aircraft in the city. The only thing I did was order that the city be photographed. This photomap plotting board—a chart measuring two meters by three—is in front of you. This is the first time journalists have seen the document. I am prepared to account for every aerial bomb and every missile. We did not target either civilian homes, or hospitals, or creches, although they had become bases for gunmen. Still less did we bomb oil storage facilities, the ammonia plant, or other dangerous installations. You understand that the present level of the Air Force makes it possible to wipe any city off the face of the earth in the space of 30 minutes. But no one set such barbarous aims.

[TRUD] What can you say about the airmen's actions 17 and 18 January, about which, for some reason, almost nothing was reported in the press?

[Deynekin] They were high-precision strikes against Dudayev's bunker in the presidential palace. Special concrete-piercing bombs were used, with a detonation delay of up to 32 seconds. Their force is quite great. Here is how Dudayev's men themselves, as opposed to some of our press, rate those actions by the Air Force. I cite a radio intercept of their exchanges: "...1420 hours. Cyclone to Panther 1 (the report is from the bunker). We are being bombed with aircraft bombs. They are coming right through the building to the basement. They are hitting the command post by direct laying. The troops must be pulled back beyond the Sunzha, otherwise we will be buried. The second line of defense will be at Minutka. A lot of people have been injured and killed in the palace, and there is no time to see to them. We must have time to get ourselves out...."

I am saying this for the benefit of those who believe the gossip about the weakness of the Army and the Air Force. It is not that easy to hit people dug in in an underground bunker at a depth of tens of meters from the air with precision, sniper strikes. Dudayev's men are trying in vain to find the names of our pilots and their families' addresses in order to take vengeance on them. This will make us take appropriate measures.

[TRUD] What other targets were hit from the air?

[Deynekin] When the ban on the use of aerial weapons in Groznyy was imposed, we started making strikes with laser-guided bombs, mainly against bridges. We destroyed seven bridges on the Argun River across which Dudayev's men were moving combat hardware and reinforcements.

[TRUD] What were your losses?

[Deynekin] Twelve aircraft returned to base damaged. We lost one in combat—an SU-25, as already reported in TRUD. Unfortunately, the pilot's body was not found, for the ground attack aircraft exploded in the air. One of our forward air controllers also died. He used his own body to protect the commander of a motorized rifle regiment from a sniper's bullet. He has been posthumously recommended for the title of Hero of Russia....

[TRUD] What is the Air Force doing now?

[Deynekin] We are carrying out air reconnaissance. We are preparing to use high-precision weapons. We are helping our motorized riflemen and paratroopers. The 104th Paratroop Regiment recently came under fire between Argun and Groznyy. We had to make strikes. We saved the regiment and its hardware.

[TRUD] But there were quite a few reports that you were bombing villages. Thus, the Ingush parliament issued a statement on the missile and bombing strike made against the settlement of Arshty at 1100 hours 3 January.

[Deynekin] We did not bomb villages. In actual fact, according to reconnaissance data, there was a large munitions dump on the outskirts of that population center, and it was destroyed. Precisely the dump, as evidenced by the materials of aerial photographic surveys and other means of objective monitoring. All these documents can be presented to the general public at any moment.

[TRUD] There was still an old ICBM position from Soviet times in the region of the settlement of Bamut. What is its fate?

[Deynekin] Yes, there was a command post with a munitions dump at a depth of 10-15 meters beneath a layer of concrete. Of course, we had to destroy it by bombing, although later we received masses of indignant questions: Why are you hitting at the peaceful population? I believe that time will put everything in its proper place and will help to distinguish the truth from fabrications.

Air Force Official Says CIS Countries Supplying Dudayev

LD0403231695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Kot, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, told "Vesti" today that weapons being used by Dudayev's fighters have been supplied to Chechnya by some CIS countries. He said that all the weapons used by federal troops, including rounds of ammunition and submachine guns, are marked 1991-1992, while the weapons used by Dudayev's fighters are marked 1993-1994.

[Begin Kot recording, identified by caption] This purchase, this delivery of weapons—or if not delivery—then this financing of Chechnya, of Dudayev, has been implemented by reactionaries. One may even say by individual leaders of some states. It is a hard thing for me to say.

Azerbaijan could be named. An investigation must be carried out. I think the commission that is working.... [pauses] It is not hard. We will get to the bottom of it. Why? Because there is the year of manufacture and the name of the manufacturer. We will track down where the delivery came from. It is not difficult at all. [end recording]

Kvashnin Says Russian Army Spares Civilians in Groznyy

LD1003205695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—"The Russian Army is not fighting the civilian population of Chechnya," a new commander of the North Caucasian military district, Colonel-General Anatoliy Kvashnin, said today in a programme of the Don-tr television company.

Kvashnin dismissed as untrue Thursday reports of Russian media that Russian federal troops made fire strikes at Chechnya's residential areas. Kvashnin stressed that he had verified evidence that there were no strikes.

Commenting on Chechnya's situation as a whole, the commander said that the federal forces completely blocked Groznyy, reached the western bank of the Sunzha river near Argun and Shali, and closed a circle around Achkhoy-Martan, an area of concentration of Chechen fighters.

The Russian Army is fighting for order in the entire North Caucasus, the commander said. Over the three years of Chechnya's independence, Dudayev set up armed forces, having in mind a war against Russia and the formation of a "Vainakh republic" with claims on neighbouring territories, Kvashnin said.

According to the commander, progress of events in that direction might have disastrous consequences and fuel a "worse than Yugoslav" conflict.

Security Council Sets Priorities in Designing New Arms

LD0603141295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 6 (Interfax)—The Russian Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission for development and research in the munitions industry has set priorities in designing new arms.

As Yuriy Andreyev, secretary of the Commission, told Interfax, the key problems are how to keep the country's capability to design prospective arms and protect Russian designs against uncontrolled use abroad.

Besides, Andreyev stressed, there must be guaranteed state support for the creation and perfection of the most advanced Russian arms and techniques, including plasma generators, beam, pneumatic, and other advanced weapons.

Andreyev also urged to stop "the drain of brains" abroad by enabling talented young people to study or train abroad, by introducing protectionist measures, by financing separate scientific groups or scientists and by giving tax benefits to those who invest in military scientific research programs.

Need for Navy Funding, Shipbuilding Program Stressed

MM0603145595 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 5

[Interview with Gennadiy Petrovich Voronin, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, by Mikhail Dmitruk; place and date not given: "No Battles, But Fleet Is Going to the Bottom"—from the "Industrial Gazette" section; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the mid-eighties we accounted for one-third of the world's military shipbuilding. At the same time the USSR ranked among the top 10 in terms of civilian shipbuilding. We built everything: from supersmall submarines to underwater missile-carrying ships. Now, however, Russia is not building ships but cutting them up. The reasons for this surprising change were explained by Gennadiy Petrovich Voronin during a conversation with the editor of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA's Science Desk.

[Voronin] Throughout the history of the Russian Navy our country regrettably never formulated a stable concept of the Navy as a highly important factor for the state's geopolitical stability. [passage omitted]

[Dmitruk] What is the present status of the Russian Navy?

[Voronin] It is threatened with a disaster comparable to that which befell it after the death of its founder, Peter the Great. As you know, during the last few years of the czar's life, a large detachment of ships was made ready for a voyage to the Indian Ocean—but it did not put to sea: The czar's heirs changed the state's naval "doctrine" dramatically. That is why Russian ships first crossed the equator only 80 years later—during the expedition by Kruzenshtern and Lissyanskiy.

And now, during the 1990's, another crisis has set in for the Russian Navy. Ships are not being repaired and are not being provided with the materials which they need to maintain combat readiness. Service in far-off areas has been minimized. The Navy is receiving virtually no new ships. Construction is being cut back and modernization and regular repairs of the ships' combat strength are being conducted in an unsatisfactory manner. As a result the fleet is rapidly becoming outdated.

[Dmitruk] In your view, how can the peaceful defeat of the Russian Navy be averted?

[Voronin] The State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry has formulated proposals whose implementation will make it possible to keep shipbuilding at the minimum permissible level amid the highly severe economic crisis. Then the core of our Navy will be preserved after the year 2000 also.

The Russian Navy needs a long-term state doctrine and the shipbuilding industry needs a shipbuilding program. This was reaffirmed once again at the Russian State Duma parliamentary hearings "On the Russian Navy, Its State and Prospects" in October 1994.

The participants in the hearings were unanimous that Russia must have a Navy capable of protecting its littoral from the seas and oceans and of defending its interests in important areas of the world, along with people's security and economic activity in the world's oceans in peacetime.

During the parliamentary hearings a number of recommendations for organs of state power and officials were formulated. To the effect that it is necessary to make additions and amendments to the military doctrine insofar as it concerns the Navy and its tasks, provide legislative guarantees of Navy funding via a separate protected section of the budget, and immediately formulate and adopt a State Shipbuilding Program no later than mid-1995.

Only purposeful joint work by parliament and the Russian executive can bring about the restoration of the Navy, without which Russia cannot be a great power. Organs of state power must finally take responsibility for the future of the Navy.

'Emergency Measures' Needed To Decommission Nuclear Subs

LD0603162195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1427 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 6 (Interfax)—The Russian navy now faces unprecedented difficulties in handling radioactive wastes and utilizing written-off nuclear submarines. This was reported to Interfax by an expert from a joint committee for environmental safety Valeriy Menshikov.

According to him, 121 nuclear submarines have been removed from use in the North and Pacific fleets. Radioactive units were removed from only 42 nuclear submarines - 18 in the North Fleet and 24 in the Pacific. A total of 79 submarines with unloaded fuel remain afloat. Menshikov said crews controlling the functioning of reactor cooling systems are on the vessels.

"Emergency measures must be taken, otherwise we will be washed away by a wave of problems related to the growing number of submarines removed from operation," the expert said. He said the utilization of old nuclear submarines is a question of the environmental security of Russia.

Obituary of Airborne Troops Deputy Commander Pikauskas

MM0603113095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 2

[Obituary of O.M. Pikauskas]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is with deep sorrow that the command of the Russian Federation Airborne Troops, his combat friends, and Airborne Troops veterans report the death of Colonel General Osvaldas Mikolovich Pikauskas, first deputy commander of the Airborne Troops.

Through his personal and professional qualities O.M. Pikauskas won prestige with his comrades in arms. His organizational abilities helped to strengthen the troops' combat readiness and develop new methods of fighting and training assault troops. He played a great role in improving the training and material base of the Airborne Troops.

The motherland made a worthy assessment of Colonel General O.M. Pikauskas' military services. He was twice awarded the Order of the Red Star, the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the Armed Forces" 2d and 3d Class, the Order "For Personal Valor," and many medals.

We express our profound condolences to the relatives and friends of the deceased. A vivid memory of Osvaldas Mikolovich will always live in our hearts.

[Signed] A group of comrades.

New Certification Procedure for Defense Industry Chiefs

MK0703113095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Certificates Will Be Issued to All Defense Enterprises Directors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government has decided to issue certificates to all heads of enterprises developing or producing arms and military equipment.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has come to learn that from now on the qualifications of citizens seeking the right to run such enterprises will be subject to mandatory certification. Candidates have to meet rather stringent requirements: higher education, at least five years in an executive position in an enterprise in the chosen field, knowledge of Russian Federation legislation pertaining to the operation of state enterprises, and access to state secrets. Certificates will be issued for a duration of five years by a commission to be formed by the State Committee for Defense Industry Sectors. Those officials with whom contracts were signed before the appearance of this decree would have to come up for certification after the contract expires. By thus strengthening its influence on the executive personnel, the government perhaps wants to have a firm grip on the defense complex in the process of its privatization.

'Secret Map' Found in Pyatigorsk Cossack's Possession

MM0303151295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Cossack Removes Secret Map of General Staff"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A secret map of the Russian Army General Staff was discovered by police during a search of a car belonging to Vladimir Makhnachev, a Cossack from the Pyatigorsk section of the Terek Cossack Army, who was returning from Chechnya, INTERFAX reports.

A firearm was also found in his car. V. Makhnachev has been taken into custody.

Nuclear Power Executive: Plants Need Western Money

LD0303155995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 3 (Interfax)—Russia will be unable to put in operation unfinished generating units at three nuclear power plants due to lack of funds, a senior executive said Friday.

But "minor investment by Western firms" would make it possible to complete the units at the Kalinin, Kursk and Rostov plants, said Yevgeniy Ignatenko, first vice president of the Rosenergoatom state company, which runs the country's nuclear power industry.

Moscow is currently trying to negotiate with several Italian banks and the U.S. company Westinghouse a $200 million contract to launch the unit at the Kalinin plant, Ignatenko told a news conference in Moscow. An agreement has already been drafted with Westinghouse and may be signed by mid-1995.

The news conference was told that, despite financial problems, Russian nuclear plants increased their safety and efficiency in 1994. Generating units were put out of service by accidents only half as many times that year as in 1993. Altogether 127 accidents were registered last year, compared to 159 in 1993. Of that number, only 13 could be considered accidents under a scale used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), compared to 1993's 30.

In 1994, Russia's nuclear power industry generated 97.83 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity—12 percent of all the electricity generated in the country—and this year plans to bring the amount to 107.9 billion kilowatt-hours.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Processing Plant To Be Built at Krasnoyarsk-26

LD0303173295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 3 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—A plant to process worked out nuclear fuel of water-condensed reactors-1000 will soon be built in Krasnoyarsk-26 by the Russian Nuclear Ministry under a presidential decree, head of the ministry's information department Georgiy Kaurov told a news conference here today.

Although the construction was planned long ago, the ministry had no money to begin it, stressed Kaurov. It will now use the money of foreign states that supply worked-out fuel of their nuclear power plants for processing in the Russian Federation. It will be the fuel from Soviet-model plants, whose fuel has traditionally been processed in Russia, and others. After processing and extraction of uranium and plutonium from the worked-out fuel, it will sent back to the dispatcher, said Kaurov. These actions have been allowed by a presidential decree and it is a common practice for many nations, including France and Great Britain.

At the same time, international cooperation has not been very efficient, said vice-president of the Rosenergatom concern Boris Antonov. In his words, Russian attempts to gain major investments for construction of new units of nuclear power plants have failed. As a rule, Western states do not offer services needed by Russian nuclear power plants. Antonov hopes that relations will be adjusted in future and Russia will become an equal partner. Measures to lessen harmful discharges of the nuclear power plants were named by Antonov as a possible cooperation area.

Mir Cosmonauts Continuing Flight

LD0303153195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0804 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Flight Control Center, 3 Mar—The cosmonauts of the 17th main expedition are continuing their flight on board the Mir scientific research complex.

During the course of their working week, which comes to an end today, technical and technological experiments according to a program of research into the earth's natural resources and studies of the environment have been fulfilled and photographs of individual areas of the planet have been taken. As part of their plans for preparing to return to earth, the cosmonauts underwent training in a "Chibis" hermetically-sealed spacesuit.

Today the crew will undergo regular medical checks. Work to replace the station's radio-engineering system is also planned.

Research using telescopes of the "Rentgen" orbital observatory will be continued within the framework of the international programme for extra-atmospheric astronomy.

A series of experiments using the "Mariya" magnetic spectrometer are planned with the object of obtaining scientific information on the mechanisms of generating charged high-energy particles in near-earth space.

The flight of the Mir orbital complex is proceeding according to schedule. Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova, and Valeriy Polyakov are feeling well.

Russian, U.S. Crew Confirmed for 14 Mar Baykonur Launch

LD1303114495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 13 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leninsk March 13—Vladimir Dezhurov, Gennadiy Strekalov and U.S. citizen Norman Thagard were confirmed by the inter-state commission on Monday as members of a space crew for a flight to the orbital station Mir aboard a Soyuz TM-21 spaceship which is to be launched from Baykonur cosmodrome by Russia's Space Defence Forces (SDF) at 09.11 Moscow time (06.11 GMT) on Tuesday [14 March].

"Everything is ready for the lift-off. The spaceship is beyond criticism. The crew have successfully undergone training and by their state of health are fit for a long-duration flight," Colonel-General Vladimir Ivanov, commander of the SDF, has told ITAR-TASS.

Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko is due to arrive at Baykonur on Monday night. He is to tour the cosmodrome facilities and will watch the launch. He takes special interest in the SDF status at the Baykonur, since this is the largest military unit stationed outside Russia to man the facility leased from Kazakhstan.

Besides, Shumeyko is to bring gifts with him: commander's wrist-watches bearing symbols dealing with the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War are to be presented to space crews, and those bearing the inscription "the Federation Council. V.F. Shumeyko" are meant for 20 best members of the SDF launch- arranging team. The emblem of the Federation Council will also be delivered to the station Mir.

First Deputy Defense Minister Kokoshin Views Space Effort

MM0303163795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unique Space Technologies Must Not Be Squandered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, addressed a session of the Russian Government Presidium on 2 March where the question of space activity in the interests of Russia's national economy, science, and security was examined.

This is one of the most important spheres for Russia's national security and for its economy as a whole. It largely determines Russia's present and future status as a great power. The situation here, according to Kokoshin, is becoming more than critical despite the fact that recently that this country's research and development work, both military and civilian, has not been standing still. The crucial problem is to ensure funding commensurate with the tasks set.

The Defense Ministry is making considerable efforts to ensure that our unique space technologies are used to develop armaments and military hardware of different types as well as to expand the sphere of application of space defense systems for Russia's civilian needs, Andrey Kokoshin noted.

Foton Satellite Research Program 'Completely Carried Out'

MM0603111595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Makashin: "Foton Working for Biologists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foton technology satellite that was launched 16 February this year from the Plesetsk Space Center landed yesterday at 1135 Moscow time 140 km southeast of Orenburg. Foton was controlled by the Russian Military Space Forces' Scientific and National Economic Spacecraft Mission Control.

The satellite's program of experiments was completely carried out during its 15-day flight. Under an agreement, the European Space Agency's "Biobox" scientific apparatus and the French National Space Center's "Ibis" equipment, designed to carry out research on cellular biology, were carried on board alongside Russian equipment.

Colonel Vasiliy Kuznetsov, leader of the Russian Military Space Forces' Main Operations Group, stressed that the software to process the telemetry relayed from the French equipment aboard the Foton spacecraft was developed by Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Terekhov. Other active participants in specialized work were Colonels Nikolay Vasilyev and Valeriy Gorokhov, Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Tkachenko...

The space capsule will be picked up on Earth by specialists from the Federal Aerospace Search and Rescue Service.

Government Lobbied for Concessions to Space Sector

MM0603130995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 95 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko under "In the Russian Federation Government" rubric: "Space Plans: Destined Not To Be Realized, Unless the State Helps the Sector"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A government session on 2 March discussed several matters: draft laws "on the vegetable kingdom" and "on social protection for citizens who were directly involved in nuclear weapon tests..."; and it heard a report by the State Committee for Statistics on the January-February results. But the main item on the agenda was one submitted at B. Yeltsin's behest—the state of affairs in the Russian Space Agency [RSA].

The crisis has had a serious effect on this high-technology sector. After the breakup of the USSR we were forced to abandon many programs and the amount of experimental design work diminished. A minimum Federal Space Program was adopted in December 1993, but it is not being carried out.

Space has become a civilian sphere for us: It is scientific research: cartography and geological exploration, meteorology, maintenance of communications and television broadcasting. They are all on starvation rations. In 1994 the budget provided only half of the planned amount.

What RSA chief Yu. Koptev and his space-sector colleagues more or less said was that money is the major issue. Although business is keen to get into space, it is not investing much. It is impossible to get credit from commercial banks when the investment cycle in the sector is as long as seven or eight years. Then how do you pay interest when it has built up to several thousand percent? And you also have to pay heavy taxes. Bank interest and constantly rising municipal services costs account for 80 percent of the resources. Add to that arbitrary actions of administrations in regions like Yakutia or Tomsk Oblast: Pay for launches and likewise for the territories where the rocket stages come down.

The RSA was supported by General Staff generals and by Deputy Defense Minister A. Kokoshin. In their opinion the space sector must be saved, even if something else has to be sacrificed. Because, meager though the 1994 RSA budget allotment was, this year the plan is to cut the state order for the space sector a further 2.2 times.

The gist of the draft edict prepared by the RSA is as follows: The sector's enterprises should be spared the heavy burden of value-added tax, they should be given preferential municipal services rates, normal budget funding should be arranged, and equipment imported for international projects should be exempt from customs duty.

It was decided to sit down and prepare a new document. It will have to delineate more clearly the civilian space projects which can provide substantial revenue for the country and give an idea of the minimum amount of defense work. All ministers on whom the sector's salvation depends will be involved in the work. In particular, the Finance Ministry, which is entitled to defer payments to the budget. Its head, V. Panskov, promised to do all he could. He gave assurances that he would tackle the problem of funding the applied- mechanics science and production association in Krasnoyarsk-26, where the situation is close to collapse—which could mean the end of the development of brand-new, competitive satellites.

But some of the proposed measures go beyond the government's jurisdiction. For example, exemption from value-added tax. So the Justice Ministry has been instructed to prepare a draft presidential edict along those lines.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin-Yeltsin Talks on Crime, Financing 'Very Tense'

LD1003145495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (Interfax)—State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin informed the deputies Friday of his talks with President Yeltsin at the end of last week, saying that "the talks lasted for two hours and were very tense."

He said that they had discussed anti-crime measures in view of prominent TV journalist Vladislav Listyev's recent murder.

He emphasized that Yeltsin was particularly displeased with a low clear-up rate, especially when serious crimes were concerned. It was said during the talks that only half of the 32,000 murders, committed last year, had been cleared up, which means that "one and a half divisions of murderers are still free," said Rybkin.

Rybkin quoted Yeltsin as saying that the law-enforcement bodies were underfinanced and that this problem was not given sufficient attention during the discussion of the budget. Rybkin said he had disagreed with that statement.

He said that the prosecutor bodies were more than 100% financed last year, although many ministries, departments and industrial branches had been underfinanced, and that the FSK [FCS] had been financed 100% and the interior bodies - 89%.

Russia's Choice Deplores Duma's Dismissal of Kovalev

LD1003192295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 10 (INTERFAX)—The Russia's Choice party group in the Russian State Duma denounced the decision made by the lower house Friday to withdraw Sergey Kovalev from the position of the Russian human rights commissioner.

"The State Duma brought shame on itself by voting for the withdrawal of Sergey Kovalev from his position of the human rights commissioner. The State Duma followed in the footstep of the communist regime which had persecuted Kovalev who had raised his voice in defense of human rights in a suppressed and frightened country," says a Russia's Choice statement made public on March 10.

Russia's Choice expressed his view [as received] that the Duma had demonstrated its hypocrisy. "The communists and Russia's Women opposed human rights violations in Chechnya as recently as yesterday. But Sergey Kovalev did what they were saying they were doing, defending human rights. Risking his life he told our society and the world the truth of what was going on in Chechnya. The Duma which could not have anyone guilty of the Chechen tragedy fired now has removed a man who named the guilty party loud and clear, a man who is regarded by the world as the true human rights activist in Russia, a man whose word is believed and with whom the president had to put up," the statement says.

The statement continues: "The Duma not only got rid of a human rights activists who made it feel awkward but also violated its own legal and moral code and a treaty between party groups.

The Russia's Choice party group absented themselves for an hour Friday night when the State Duma debated the status of TV and radio broadcasting.

The group held an emergency meeting to discuss the Duma decision which effectively removed Sergey Kovalev from the position of Russia's human rights commissioner.

Numerous MPs [members of parliament] demanded that the group withdraw its members from chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of parliament committees but a vast majority of the group disagreed.

Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar emphasized that the group could not afford such a present to its political opponents.

"We are prepared to boycott State Duma sessions when this inconveniences our political opponents but will not go any further," Gaydar emphasized.

Nevertheless, Sergey Yushenkov, who chairs the Defense Committee, confirmed his intention to leave his position because, he said, following the events in the Chechen Republic "the situation in the State Duma drastically changed in that a communist national-patriotic majority formed." Yushenkov explained that in the new environment he in his capacity of the Defense Committee chairman could not influence the Chechen developments by parliamentary methods.

The Russia's Choice group returned to the State Duma session hall at 17:00.

Kovalev Ouster 'Ultimate Humiliation' for Russia's Choice

MK1103084095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Maksim Sokolov: "Whom the Gods Would Destroy, They First Make Mad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Kovalev's dismissal from the post of parliamentary commissioner on human rights means not only the ultimate humiliation for "Russia's Choice," but also the collapse of the cartel agreement between factions that existed for slightly more than a year and somehow helped the Duma to keep stability.

Since Kovalev was appointed by the Duma as ombudsman as part of the package agreement between factions on the allocation of high positions, the abolition of one of the package's provisions is tantamount to the abrogation of the entire deal, although this has not been announced. This means that the factions' agreement on principles of cohabitation, which has hitherto served as the basis for the Duma's operations, will from now on be replaced with more traditional mechanisms well known from the experience of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: partly with spontaneous swings in the deputies' mood (as in party congresses), partly, with the skillful effort of the presidium (as in Supreme Soviet sessions).

Of course, many Duma members did not like Kovalev's stance on the Chechen issue; moreover, they could not but be even less pleased with the commissioner's repeated statements that his mandate is above parliament's and that the Duma is not entitled to dismiss him. The Duma members' dislike for Kovalev's political stance or personal ambitions could hardly have been resolved in so straightforward a fashion—by repealing the general agreement at a stroke—had it not been for the rapid changes in the Duma's balance of forces. In January 1994, when the agreement was being drawn up, "Russia's Choice" was the largest faction, which earned it a number of privileges, including the right to delegate the ombudsman. By March 1995, the faction, worn down by numerous splits, has not only considerably declined in numbers, but also has taken an uncompromising political stance that boils down to the repudiation of any tactical moves and maneuvers for the sake of keeping democratic principles pure and the willingness to die valiantly for its banner. Naturally, its opponents could not refuse to help their colleagues satisfy this desire and only waited for an appropriate occasion.

It came Friday, when "Russia's Choice" resolutely backed the communist and patriotic initiative for Yerin and Ilyushenko to be removed from office, acting as little brother to its erstwhile implacable opponents and thus completing its break with the president. Undoubtedly, by so doing the Gaydarites wanted to emphasize their unprejudiced rigorousness, but their Duma counterparts saw a coarser side: Having crushed its political rear and taken the game helplessly to the opposition's end of the field, the faction has lost its political identity and become marginalized, rendering its leaders "second-rate Zyuganovs," as Gaydar predicted prophetically some time ago. From here on, nothing prevented them from wiping their feet on "Russia's Choice"—and this was done without delay.

Regardless of the personal political future of Gaydar and his followers, the Friday case has a more general bottom line which is unpleasant for all. "Russia's Choice" was not only a faction expressing a set of basically fully respectable ideas, but an important load-bearing component of the parliamentary construction. By deliberately driving itself toward purely marginal positions, the Gaydar party has alienated its tactical political allies, which was followed by a collapse of the entire rickety structure. As Gaydar predicted in an era of his greater moderateness, those standing to benefit from that are none other than the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and the Communists into whose hand "Russia's Choice" has so brilliantly played.

Duma Censure Vote Unlikely To Oust Yerin, Ilyushenko

MK1103104095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 2

[Yelena Viktorova report in the "Comments" column: "Senators Believe That the Duma Will Not Affect Ministers' Careers. Many Federation Council Members Are Ready To Put Power Chiefs on Trial—Only for Chechnya, Not for Listyev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federation Council Deputy Chairman Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, who calls himself a "representative of the military lobby," flatly refused to comment on the State Duma's no confidence vote on Yerin and Ilyushenko. His aide asked SEGODNYA's correspondent whether "the Duma has not touched Stepashin."

Aleksey Manannikov, deputy chairman of the senate international affairs committee, complained that "Duma members for some reason are not impressed by the continuing mass killing of civilians in Chechnya, but after the death of Vladislav Listyev deputies suddenly decided to give a vote of censure to some ministers...." He expressed his surprise that a vote of no confidence has not as yet been given to other "power" chiefs: Federal Counterintelligence Service head Sergey Stepashin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who are responsible for the Chechen operation.

Viktor Kurochkin, a member of the senate constitutional legislation committee and representative of Democratic Russia, said that "the power ministers must be put on trial—only not over Listyev's death, but over Chechnya."

True, Federation Council members expressed doubt that in giving Yerin and Ilyushenko a no confidence vote Duma members were guided by such considerations. The senators agreed that yesterday's Duma decision on the internal affairs minister and the general prosecutor will most likely not lead to their resignation and will have no implications whatsoever.

Duma To Discuss TV Nationalization; No Confidence Vote Passed

MM1003171495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Duma Decides To Talk About Nationalizing Television. Vote of No Confidence Passed in Yerin and Ilyushenko"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision adopted at the State Duma's morning sitting on 10 March to include on the session's agenda the question of nationalizing all (judging by the decision's wording) Russian television companies and transferring them to parliamentary control can be considered quite unexpected.

V. Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], put forward this proposal and unusually won the support of the majority of deputies. The adoption of such a decision may be seen as the logical conclusion to a campaign which has been conducted in the Duma for a fairly long time now, whose aim is to attempt if not to wrest control over television from the executive branch of power on the eve of the elections, then at least to significantly weaken it. The campaign was initiated by the Communists, who received the support of M. Poltoranin, leader of the Duma Committee on Information Policy.

It seems that V. Zhirinovskiy himself, who made the quite shocking proposal on nationalizing television, did not count on succeeding; but, evidently, expectations prior to the voting united deputies from different factions to such an extent that the LDPR leader's initiative won the support of 230 deputies. Some 49 legislators voted against the inclusion of the question on the agenda, and two abstained.

The same day, the State Duma voted to pass a vote of no confidence in Minister of Internal Affairs V. Yerin and acting General Prosecutor A. Ilyushenko. Some 264 deputies voted in favor of this proposal.

ITAR-TASS jas reported that the Duma decision is by way of a recommendation. It lies within the powers of the Russian Federation president to dismiss Viktor Yerin. As far as Aleksey Ilyushenko is concerned, he continues to be acting general prosecutor even though the Federation Council has already come out on two occasions against confirming him in office.

Duma Lacks 28 Votes To Nationalize Television

LD1003201395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Amidst heated debates, the lower chamber of the Russian parliament lacked just 28 votes today to pass a resolution nationalising all television companies in this country.

The draft resolution suggesting an overall nationalisation of the Russian television, was submitted by outspoken nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

"It is a step towards Bolshevism", Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the parliamentary committee in charge of mass media, told TASS assessing Zhirinovskiy's suggestion and Duma's vote.

According to Poltoranin, "the existence of 400 independent television companies in Russia is a great achievement of democracy and an efficient mechanism of public control over administration's activities".

Speaking to TASS, Oleg Poptsov, head of the state-run Russian television company, also branded it "a Bolshevist attempt to impose control on television", noting that "the State Duma deputies are unaware that the so-called nationalisation of the television will cost 7-8 trillion roubles".

Draft Law on TV, Radio Status Passes Reading

LD1003184595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (Interfax)—The Russian State Duma has passed, in the first reading, the draft law on maintaining the status of state television and radio broadcasting and a moratorium on its privatization.

The draft law was proposed by Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Property and Privatization Sergey Burkov (New Regional Policy deputy group), Chairman of the Committee on Legislation Vladimir Isakov (the Agrarian faction) and Chairman of the Committee on Information Policy and Communications Mikhail Poltoranin (Russia's Choice faction). The draft was backed by 239 votes with four abstentions. A total of 33 deputies voted against. The draft had to receive 226 votes to pass.

The draft law provides for imposing a five-year moratorium on privatization of state television and radio broadcasting organizations, including jointly-owned facilities.

In accordance with the draft law, the joining of the State Property Committee, the TV Technical Center state enterprise, the Ostankino Russian State TV and Radio Company to the Public Russian Television joint stock company, as co-founders, and the transfer of their property to it, of time on the air and economic contracts is invalid.

The Russian president and government were proposed to bring their decisions on privatization of the TV and radio company in line with the draft law.

The State Duma also decided to propose that the Calculating Chamber check the financial and economic activities of TV and radio broadcasting companies.

The State Duma rejected the alternative draft law proposed by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) faction. A total of 199 deputies voted for approving the LDPR draft in the first reading.

Leader of the LDPR faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said when urging the State Duma to approve his draft that "the only way to save the country and the people is to take control over parliamentary television for a year and a half, i.e. until presidential elections in Russia in June 1996." He said if this was not done parliamentary elections would be wrecked and "a journalist and a parliamentarian will be killed every month while all adopted laws will go unheeded."

Kostikov's Appointment as Ambassador to Vatican Approved

LD1003203795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (Interfax)—The State Duma's Committee for International Affairs gave its general approval to the appointment of the president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov to the post of ambassador to Vatican during a closed-door session on Friday [10 March].

Kostikov told Interfax that the discussion of his appointment proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

According to a well-informed source, his appointment was approved in a 9 to 4 vote with 5 abstentions.

The consent of the Committee for International Affairs is "desirable" but not mandatory, because the appointment is made by the president.

The Moscow circles are discussing candidates to the post of the president's pres secretary. Informed observers believe that the vacancy will be filled by a professional journalist. Preference is given to Ostankino TV channel commentator Sergey Medvedev.

Regional Affairs

Live Missile Falls Near Voronezh Nuclear Power Plant

LD1303171395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1558 GMT 13 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Starukhin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voronezh, 13 Mar—A live missile, released from an Su-25 ground-attack aircraft on a training flight, failed to respond to control by the crew and exploded 200 meters from houses in the Arkhangelskoye settlement in Khokhol district [Khokholskiy Rayon] of Voronezh Oblast. This is 4.5 km from the Novovoronezhskaya nuclear power station. Journalists were told today about this incident, which occurred last Friday [10 March] by Colonel Petr Tretyakov, head of the region's civil defense headquarters.

The enraged people of Arkhangelskoye demanded once again that the Voronezh regional administration and the command of the military unit (the Su-25 belongs to an independent air assault regiment, stationed in Buturlinovka settlement) should stop exercises over the area. Voronezh governor Aleksandr Kovalev intends to send the Russian Government and the Defense Ministry a further report proposing that the air test range near the nuclear facility should be closed down immediately. The feeling here is that a bombing range could only have been sited between a town with a population of 1 million and a nuclear power station by people completely devoid of commonsense.

Military Calls North Ossetia 'Tense,' But 'Calm'

LD0803150595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 8 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz March 8 TASS—The situation in the zone of the North Ossetian-Ingush conflict controlled by the Russian Army and local law enforcement bodies remains tense, but relatively calm, military sources said.

No ethnic clashes were reported on Wednesday. Russian Army units watch especially closely the situation in the "safe area" between North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Mobile groups also monitor the situation in rural districts, where a spring sowing campaign has started.

In a televised address, North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov congratulated all women on their holiday, pointing out that women and mothers have suffered most of all in the armed conflict—they have lost their relatives and next-of-kin, become homeless.

However, it is women and mothers who, despite all hardships, make life meaningful, fill it with kindness and inspire the hope that one day peace will reign in the Caucasus again. He praised women's contribution to the peace-making efforts in the region.

Galazov stressed that the republic's leadership is doing its best to normalise relations with Ingushetia and resolve the problem of refugees.

He said that over 12,000 Ingushis live in North Ossetia and as many have expressed their intention to return to the Prigorod district, where work is underway to build housing and restore the social infrastructure.

Galazov noted that North Ossetia has become a testing ground for solving the problem of refugees in the former Soviet Union and reconciling two peoples—Ossetians and Ingushis.

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Oil Refineries To Be Partially Restored

LD0803152695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 8 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 8 (Interfax)—Oil refining capacities in Chechnya will be restored albeit not in full, a government source told Interfax in Moscow.

He said one reason is that Russia's own refineries are working under capacity while the cost of restoring the Chechen refineries may turn out too high.

"The question is not one of dropping the idea of refining oil in Chechnya but estimates must be made of the volume of production needed for the republic and Russia as a whole", said the source.

At the same time, the government plans to restore the now-demolished oil producing facilities and a 50-kilometer-length of the local pipelines.

One of the urgent priorities is to try to provide employment to the local population which may otherwise fall prey to brainwashing by the rebels, the source said.

In the meantime, bomb disposal units are expected to inspect all of the local oil-related facilities before restoration work gets under way.

Report Claims Russia, West Pursue Oil in Chechnya

AU1303173195 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 10 Mar 95 p 9

[Report by V. Sozanskyy, petroleum geologist, leading research associate at the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences Marine Geology Department: "Chechnya's Oil and Blood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] War is in progress in an oil-rich area of the Northern Caucasus. All states worldwide regard this war as an internal affair of the Russian Federation, which possesses legal rights to disarm [Chechen President] Dzhokhar Dudayev's illegal military formations. It is strange that, in the past, when the Soviet administrative-bureaucratic system did not allow several dissidents to go abroad, Western governments adopted special amendments to laws thereby putting the Soviet Union into a difficult economic situation. At present, when whole Chechen towns and villages are being razed with bomb and missile strikes, Western states and even the United Nations hardly respond at all.

A question arises: What is the cause of the war in Chechnya and why do Western states do show any compassion for the Chechens? Almost all political columnists, commenting upon the events in Chechnya, associate them with oil. That is why we will briefly touch upon the oil and gas presence in the region.

Virtually the entire territory of Chechnya is an oil field. It is one of the oldest oil-producing areas, which yielded almost one-third of the oil for tsarist Russia and the prewar Soviet Union. Prior to World War II, Chechnya and Ingushetia occupied the second place in the USSR, after Azerbaijan, in oil production. In the 1980's, more than 8 million metric tons of oil was extracted annually in Chechnya and Ingushetia.

The deposits explored so far mainly contain oil; only some of them have small accumulations of free gas in the form of separate zones or fields. There only are two gas deposits, but they are small, presently almost depleted, or in the last stage of utilization. Oil deposits continue to yield oil.

However, for Russia, the oil pipeline, which crosses Chechnya and connects the Caspian oil-bearing region with the oil terminal in Novorossiysk, is of major significance. As recently reported in the press, Azerbaijan had signed a contract with Western oil companies on working large deposits in the Caspian Sea, from where oil will be supplied through a pipeline from Baku [Azerbaijan capital] to Groznyy [Chechen capital], and then, across Chechnya, through Tikhoretsk, to Novorossiysk, In 1992, the transnational American company "Chevron" concluded a $20 billion contract with Kazakhstan on working a giant deposit Tengiz for the duration of 40 years. Oil from Tengiz is also expected to be transported across Chechnya to Novorossiysk. Work on expanding the Novorossiysk terminal is presently under way.

That is why, it is essential for Russia's prestige and financial well-being to ensure the normal functioning of the oil pipeline running across Chechnya, because there is presently neither time nor money to build a new oil pipeline bypassing Chechnya.

By its striving for freedom, Chechnya affects the interests of both Russia and the West. Each of those parties reacts to the events in its own way—one with Kalashnikov assault rifles and the other by its indifference.

[The above report is accompanied by a "Diagram Showing the Location of Oil and Gas Deposits in Chechnya and Ingushetia." Marked on it are five geological zones and the following hydrocarbon deposits:

[1) Zamankul gas field, 2) Malgobek-Voznesenskiy oil field, 3) Karabulak-Achaluki oil field, 4) Akhlovo oil field, 5) Alkhazovo gas field, 6) Alkyurt oil and gas field, 7) Goragorskiy oil and gas field, 8) Sernovodnyy oil and gas field, 9) Datykh oil field, 10) Orlinyy oil field, 11) Eldarovyy oil and gas field, 12) Muzhimbiru oil and gas fiels, 13) Khayankort oil field, 14) Starogroznenskiy oil field, 15) Oktyabrskiy oil field, 16) Goytkort oil field, 17) Benoy gas field, 18) Suvorovskiy (Noyberdy), 19) Novogroznenskiy oil field, 20) Western Gudermes oil field, 21) Braguny oil field, 22) Goryachiy Klyuch oil field, 23) Pravoberezhnoye (Aduyurt) oil field, 24) Chervlenoye gas field]

Commission Chairman Says 150 Russians Held by Dudayev

LD1003173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stavropol March 10 TASS—Some 150 Russian servicemen remain captives of Dudayev's fighters, Petr Kosov, deputy ataman of the Russian Don troops, told a news conference on Friday.

Kosov is chairman of the public commission which finds out whereabouts of Russian prisoners of war and mediates their exchange for Chechen fighters.

Exact numbers of prisoners of war are known by neither the Russian nor the Chechen side, Kosov said. One of factors is that a number of prisoners of war conceal their names and types of troops they belong to in the fear of reprisal.

Kosov said the number of missing in action and captured Russian servicemen is greater than 400 for the entire period of the Chechnya campaign. Ninety-nine have been exchanged.

According to Kosov, Dudayev's forces presented a list of 263 fighters who are presumed to be captured by Russians.

Kosov said locating and exchanging prisoners of war would be more effective if Russian federal authorities "judicially acknowledged the existence of the prisoners of war rather than pretended that there are none".

Military Says No Federal Attack Planned on Gudermes

LD1003194395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 10 (INTERFAX)—Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the federal forces in Chechnya, met with a delegation of Argun, Shali and Gudermes residents opposing Dudayev.

Officials in the army group press center told Interfax that the two sides discussed the ousting of illegal militias from these eastern Chechen towns and establishing relations between the towns and federal officers.

The officials said that the meeting had been held in a constructive atmosphere and become a landmark in peace efforts undertaken by the federal command. The press center did not specify the venue or time of the meeting.

Meanwhile, a Russian military source in Mozdok, North Ossetia, told Interfax Friday that the federal forces do not plan an attack on Gudermes. He said that "active consultations" had been under way with influential people in Gudermes with a view to having Dudayev's fighters under Raduyev leave the town.

The source said that to control Gudermes it was sufficient to take two heights domineering over that strategically important town east off Groznyy.

He added that the town's inhabitants do not want Gudermes to become a battlefield.

Skirmishing Continues, Troop Units Redeployed

LD1103085395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) March 11 TASS—Unlawful Chechen units continued firing small arms, mine-throwers and artillery pieces at the positions of the Russian federal troops throughout last night. ITAR-TASS was told at the press centre of the command of the joint group of federal troops in Chechnya that the enemy emplacements had to be wiped out.

Officials of the press centre also said that "most active during the past week were artillery and armour units of the federal troops, positioned on the approaches to Argun. They are daily inflicting telling losses on the Chechen militants".

In the meantime, the re-deployment of federal units and contingents is being continued in Chechnya. The last units of the 106th Division of the Russian Armed Forces, which bore the brunt of the battles for the Chechen capital, left Groznyy today. "The re-deployment of troops," officials of the press centre said, "is explained by the fact that the Russian Army is transferring some areas to the control of troops from the Russian Interior Ministry."

Troops Preparing To Capture Argun, Gudermes

LD1103151595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The reports that a major offensive against Argun has started are not in accord with reality. The federal forces continue to occupy positions along the Argun River and are only firing in response to the Dudayev forces or as warnings to them, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by a high-ranking Defense Ministry spokesman in Mozdok. He added that after intensive shelling of positions held by the fighters on 8 and 9 March the federal forces reduced the amount of firing.

However, our radio station has different news from the conflict zone.

[Correspondent] The Russian side is not ceasing intensive shelling of the villages of Achkoy-Martan, Bamut and others. The federal units have not yet taken Gudermes and Argun but, according to internal troops' officers, it is planned to take Argun on 12 March and Gudermes on the 14th. That preparations are under way for a new offensive is indicated by the fact that yesterday the Russian troops' post between Sernovodski and the village of Samashki journalists were not being allowed through, saying that this was on the orders of the command.

At present journalists in Chechnya are very worried about the fate of two St. Petersburg correspondents from the NEVSKOYE VREMYA newspaper, Maksim Shchuplin and Feliks Ochepov, who went off to Shali six days ago and who have not been heard of since.

The stream of refugees from the combat regions into Ingushetia is unceasing.

[Announcer] Meanwhile the command of the federal troops in Chechnya has presented an ultimatum to the Dudayev supporters defending Shali, Argun and Gudermes: they must lay down their weapons by Sunday.

However, an AFP correspondent was told by Aslan Maskhadov, chief of general staff of the Chechen armed forces, that the ultimatum would not be accepted.

No Military Activity Reported on 10-11 Mar

LD1103152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 11 (Interfax)—There has been no widescale operations, massed bombardments, and artillery shelling of populated centers over the previous 24 hours in Chechnya, the press center of the Joint command of the group of forces on the Chechen territory reported to Interfax Saturday.

Nevertheless, the public-political situation here remained tense. The press center informs that "the federal forces fulfilled planned operations forcing out fighters from the populated centers situated to the south of Groznyy." In particular, on March 10 they took the village of Maly Bamut.

According to available information, "in the city of Gudermes (40 kilometers to the east of Groznyy) fighters shot up several local Elders who tied to negotiate with representatives of the federal forces and who demanded that illegal armed formations should leave populated centers of this region."

Nevertheless, there were negotiations between representatives of the Joint command and a delegation of residents of the city of Achkhoy-Martan (35 kilometers to the south-west of Groznyy) who expressed wish to stop shelling the city. The press center reported that the delegation promised to adopt measures to force fighters out of this populated center if a positive decision is adopted.

Antiwar Leader Says 25,000 Servicemen Killed

LD1103172995 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0720 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Probably the most notable antiwar demonstration against the campaign in Chechnya has been the Russian national congress of soldiers' mothers in Nazran. Nonetheless, it is in Moscow that the war will be stopped, according to the leader of the Soldiers' Mothers of Russia movement. The chairman of the movement, Lyubov (Lemar) returned from Chechnya a few days ago. She was met by our correspondent and she had the following to say about some of the details of the effects of the war on the Russian Army.

[Begin Lemar recording] I have concrete data about the whereabouts of communal graves, each containing up to 500 people. The military told me that corpses were being stacked on top of each other back in January. These corpses were then bombed and set on fire in the way they cremate the dead in India. I was shown a spot where 500 people were buried.

Prisoners of war told me that at the beginning of January, 50 armored personnel carriers turned back because the crews did not want to take part in combat and Russian helicopters bombed the 50 armored personnel carriers to bits, leaving no one alive.

I learned most of my information from prisoners of war. Most of all they fear bomb strikes by federal forces. After that comes rocket bombardment by federal forces, and only then the Dudayevites themselves. Because either the wrong coordinates are given and they start to bomb their own men ... [pauses] According to the prisoners of war, most of the dead were done in by federal forces.

Ingushetia is today carrying out a real peacekeeping mission but nonetheless efforts are being made to drag Ingushetia into the military conflict. I was also told this by prisoners of war. Corpses are being taken out of Groznyy and some of them are thrown out of trucks so that they can say that they were murdered on the territory of Ingushetia.

The figures being given by Dmitriy Volkogonov today on deaths of servicemen are completely at odds with reality. He has spoken of over 1,000 dead servicemen. I spoke to officers who told me that 25,000 servicemen have been killed. On the Chechen side, we met Mufti Magomet Khuseyn Khadzhi Aslambekov and the spokesmen for Dudayev's government. They give twice that figure. The fact is that the worst thing is that many parents will be unable to bury their sons simply because they will not find their corpses. In Chelyabinsk alone we have 100 missing in action. We speak to the parents. If you take that figure as an average for the country—the figure is the same in Volgograd, for instance—then it is a huge figure. It certainly isn't 1,000. It is tens of thousands. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Forces 'Poised' To Attack Shali; Villages Shelled

LD1103203295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 11 (Interfax)—Russian artillery opened heavy fire on Saturday afternoon on Chechen positions near Chechen-Aul village 15 kilometers southeast of Chechnya's capital Groznyy.

The aim of the attack was to unblock a motor road leading to the Chechen-controlled town of Shali.

A Chechen security officer told Interfax in Shali that "more than 70 tanks, 6,000 troops and various kinds of artillery" were poised for an assault on the town.

There are Russian forces west of Shali, and, if the town falls, an eastern group of Chechen volunteers positioned near the town of Argun, 12 kilometers east of Groznyy, would be surrounded.

The Chechen regime said an attempt to break through Chechen defenses outside Argun the Russians made on Friday was a failure. An Interfax correspondent reported that, early on Saturday afternoon, only sporadic exchanges of artillery and small arms fire were heard in the area.

According to the head of Chechnya's National Security Department, Abu Movsayev, on Friday the Russians made intensive air raids on Shali. "The artillery and air strikes have destroyed about 80 percent of the housing in Argun," Movsayev said.

But he said no changes of position ensued either in Argun or in the area of Gudermes, Chechnya's second largest town after Groznyy, where "in the last two days Russian troops have been trying to move forward."

"The volunteers continue to offer resistance to Russian troops in the suburbs of Groznyy—in the villages of Yermolovka and Aldy and in the Chernorechye area," Movsayev said.

The Interfax correspondent said that, on Saturday afternoon, Russian artillery opened fire on the villages of Alkhan-Yurt and Alkhan-Kala, 15 kilometers west of Groznyy. Apart from that, the sides were exchanging artillery and light arms fire in that area throughout the day.

Two Chechnya Villages Spared Shelling 'Since Friday'

LD1103203595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Achkhoy-Martan, Chechnya, Mar 11 (INTERFAX)—Russian forces have not shelled the villages of Achkhoy-Martan and Bamut since Friday night, an Interfax correspondent reported.

The population of the two villages, which lie on Chechnya's border with the Russian Republic of Ingushetia, asked the Russian command in Chechnya to stop shelling because, they said, there were no Chechen fighters in either village.

At a meeting on Friday with representatives of Achkhoy-Martan's administration, Russian commanders agreed to stop fire.

Head of administration Salam Umalatov told Interfax the Russians were observing the agreement.

Lebed Denounces Military Actions in Chechnya

LD1103205295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2030 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hague March 11 TASS—There is still a way out of the Chechen crisis—to cease all hostilities, sit down at a negotiating table and begin a dialogue, Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army in the Dniester region of Moldavia, said.

In an interview with the Dutch weekly ELSEVIERS, Lebed denounced the military actions in Chechnya, which he said "lacked elementary logic."

"The operation was absolutely unprepared and showed complete incapability of those who had prepared it," he said.

"I cannot get rid of the feeling that certain forces in Moscow have unleashed this massacre in hope to ... cancel presidential elections due to take place next year," he added.

Commenting on the statements that many see him as a strong person, the kind of person Russia needs now, Lebed said that he is a military man and is preoccupied at the moment only with military problems and therefore he has no time for political speculations.

Federal Troops Deny Attacking Positions Near Argun

LD1203101995 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commanders of the federal forces in Chechnya have refuted the report on the start of an attack on the armed fighters' positions near the town of Argun. According to a spokesman for the commanders, the troops are occupying positions along the river Argun and are only returning fire against the reinforced posts of the armed fighters.

Forces Suggest Making Groznyy Demilitarized Zone

LD1203103195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok March 12 TASS—The command of the joint group of Russian federal forces does everything to bring about an end to armed confrontation in Chechnya as soon as possible, prepare conditions for the return of residents of the republic to peaceful labour and that of soldiers to their permanent stations, says a message sent by the command to the soldiers' mothers, representatives of public and religious organisations and participants in a peace march which originated in Moscow on March 8.

The message points out that several meetings with field commanders were held on the initiative of the military. A number of proposals were decided upon to end the senseless bloodshed: immediatley to discontinue combat actions, fully to release all hostages and captives and surrender weapons.

The command of the group also suggests that militants go to the places of their permanent residence and that Groznyy be made a demilitarised zone, points out the message which has been circulated through press centres.

The message contains a proposal that self-defence teams numbering up to 30 members be set up in populated areas pending the formation of efficient local law enforcement agencies and that all small arms be stored by the teams under police monitoring. Provision is also made that federal troops would not enter populated areas if people there renounce armed resistance.

Plans To Storm Shali, Argun, Gudermes Denied

LD1203132495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal troops' ultimatum to the armed supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev is expiring today. I will remind you that the Chechen detachments have been told to lay down arms, otherwise the troops will start an assault on the towns of Shali, Argun, and Gudermes. The press service of the Russian Defense Ministry told our correspondent that nothing was known about any such assault.

Chechnya Reports Air Strike on Argun

LD1203155695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 12 (Interfax)—The Russian Military Air Forces launched several missile-bomb attacks on Argun (the Chechen second largest town to the east of Groznyy where Dudayev supporters have strong positions—IF) on Saturday after 16:30, Head of the Chechen Information Service Movladi Udugov told Interfax.

He said the air attack had lasted for about 40-50 minutes. The main blow was dealt on the Argun Krasny Molot plant destroyed as a result of the attack. About ten dwelling houses were also destroyed. The Argun flour factory was put out of functioning. About 350 tonnes of grain were eliminated on the plant as a result of the air strike.

Chechnya said Russian troops were continuing to accumulate a large amount of armored equipment between Argun and the Dzhalka Village and near the Ilyinovskaya Village close to the border with the Gudermes Region. Udugov said Chechen fighters were "taking all necessary countermeasures."

Udugov said that Russia and Chechnya had not changed their positions over the last day.

An officer of the Russian Defense Ministry General Headquarters Press Department failed to confirm or to deny this information to Interfax. However, the officer said that the Russian Defense Ministry could comment on the events in Argun in the next few hours. Interfax plans to make known possible comments of the Russian Defense Ministry on the events.

Achkhoy-Martan Cease-Fire Observed for Over 24 Hours

LD1203173195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ACHKHOY-MARTAN (Chechnya) Mar 12 (Interfax)—The agreement on cease-fire in the villages of the Achkhoy-Martan Region bordering on Ingushetia has been observed by the federal troops for more than 24 hours now. Our correspondent reports from Achkhoy-Martan that this populated area and the high-mountain village of Bamut were not shelled by Russian artillery during Friday night.

Earlier, the shelling of the village of Samashkiy had been stopped because the local elders had assured the Russian soldiers that there were no pro-Dudayev formations in the village.

Such an agreement was reached during talks on Friday between representatives of the Achkhoy-Martan regional administration and the command of the federal troops in Chechnya. The talks involved on the Russian side Lieutenant-General Yuriy Kosolapov and were held on the federal control post on the border with Ingushetia. The Chechen side urged the Russian military to stop shelling villages and confirmed that there were no armed groupings in the populated areas of the Achkhoy-Martan Region.

Meanwhile, our correspondent reports that rumors are being spread among the Chechen volunteers, located in the Achkhoy-Martan region that there are plans to send Russian troops directly to the villages of Achkhoy-Martan and Samashkiy.

On the other hand, another rumor about an ultimatum on the removal of civilians from the villages located in the zone of possible combat operations, allegedly presented by the Russian military, is being circulated in these villages. Scared by this information, part of the civilian population moved to the neighboring village of Sernovodskaya, located beyond the Russian control post and on the territory controlled by the federal troops.

In the afternoon, in the absence of any offensive operations on the part of the federal troops, many of those people returned home.

Chechen Provisional Council Founds New Paper

LD1203203095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2006 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Chechnya on Sunday:

"According to reports from the mobile information center, the situation in the Chechen Republic did not undergo any dramatic changes over the past 24 hours. The federal Armed Forces continued to carry out their tasks in the areas under their control. Sporadic gunfire opened by small groups of militants was heard overnight.

"On Saturday, a new issue of the newspaper VOZROZHDENIYE (REVIVAL) came out in the Nadterechny district. The newspaper has been founded and published by the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic, which is in opposition to the (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev regime. The newspaper frontpaged an interview with Musa Alkhazurov, chairman of the Revival Party. He believes that the 'fate of the Chechen Republic should be decided by the people through a referendum, not by politicians.'

"'Let's help Chechnya and its working people,' the Groznyy workers said in their appeal to the enterprises and organisation of Russia published by the newspaper. The authors of the appeal asked them to provide economic assistance to the republic, which, in their words, will not be able to resolve the crisis without outside help.

"Life in the capital of the Chechen Republic is going back to normal. One of the signs of that is the resumption of the operation of law enforcement bodies. An article titled 'About the 02 Service Which Is Going Back on Line' tells about it.

"The newspaper also published an appeal by the minister of education of the Chechen Republic, Petimat Zakirova, which gives a thorough analysis of the situation in the sphere of education in the republic and suggests ways to resolve the existing problems.

"A lot of the newspaper's space is taken by ads searching for the people who went missing in Chechnya during the armed conflict."

Federal Troops Block Ingushetia-Western Chechnya Road

LD1303113695 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1052 GMT 13 Mar 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal troops closed the road from Ingushetia to western Chechnya today and halted operations at the Samashki checkpoint. An INTERFAX correspondent reported that traffic here was halted in both directions with armored personnel carriers blocking the way.

Russian servicemen warned they will shoot to kill if anyone approaches the checkpoint.

In the meantime, Chechen volunteers are taking up positions on the outskirts of Samashki. According to Russian military sources, more than 200 Dudayev militants are in Samashki.

Economic Issues

Ministries To Speed Up Obtaining Japanese Credit

LD0603141195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 6 (Interfax)—Russian ministries and departments should speed up studying the problems associated with the reception of the $530-million credit from the Export-Import Bank of Japan. This view was voiced Monday by First Deputy Russian Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who held a meeting on the development of the Russian-Japanese business relations in Moscow.

The understanding on granting a credit to Russia was reached during the official visit to Japan by Oleg Soskovets in November, 1994. The credit will go for the reconstruction of the Yaroslavl oil refinery, KamAZ truck-making factory, the Moscow AZLK car factory, as well as the St. Petersburg enterprise Impulse, which makes microwave ovens.

"Under question are real capital investments, on whose basis an efficient model of attracting foreign investments in production should be developed," said Soskovets. He also noted the need to boost the shaping up of a Russian-Japanese inter-government commission for trade and economic, and scientific and technological cooperation.

The commission will involve groups of experts on fuel and energy problems, fisheries, timber industry and transport, as well as experts dealing with the problems of sustaining small and medium-sized businesses. Speakers said that the Russian side had finished the shaping of its part of the commission and hopes that Japan will speed up work towards the creation of its group of experts.

1995 Economic Policy Called Realistic, Feasible

MK0903100095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Viktor Ivanov: "Economic Policy in 1995. Russia Will Be Able To Stand by Promises '95"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and the Central Bank have hammered out a joint statement for the completion of talks with the IMF on credits. Thus the annual "export version" of Russia's economic policy is ready. It should not be treated with irony. The authorities will be clearly trying to carry out in good faith all the promises it contains, the more so because this does not contradict their own interests too much.

Russian Government: We Will Be Trying as Never Before

Russia's economic policy has had a very remarkable feature in recent years. Every year (usually the beginning) the government and the Central Bank issue a joint document—a statement or an agreement containing pledges they will stick to the rigid guidelines of monetary policy. In addition the government now draws up annual memoranda dealing not just with the monetary sphere but with all economic policy as well. All such documents are intended for international financial organizations—the IMF and the World Bank and, in a broad sense, for Western creditors generally. In principle, it is from these documents intended for "external consumption" that it is easiest to see which economic strategy the Russian authorities intend to really follow. This is not surprising: In the final analysis the Russian economy depends to a considerable extent on the West's stance (the case in point is availability of new credits, rescheduling payments for old credits, access for Russian goods to world markets, and so on) whereas the West wants the Russian authorities' policy to be at least predictable. It would be at any rate simplistic to think that the Russian authorities restrict themselves to promises which they do not intend to honor. After all, the statements and memoranda are worked on with the participation of Western experts who then closely monitor the implementation of these documents.

The new statement drawn up by the government and the Central Bank is of special significance. Even from the purely formal point of view, unlike in the past, it not only deals with the monetary sphere but also contains obligations in conducting all economic policy in 1995. An even more important fact is this year this a document will determine not only Western creditors' favorable attitude to the rescheduling of payments or to granting more loans but simply the entire financing of the Russian economy, because a considerable part of the budget deficit is supposed to be covered from external credits totaling $12.7 billion. It is for this reason that one may contend that this year, as never before, the government will be trying to fulfill all that has been promised.

Promises Drawn Up Well Can Be Fulfilled Equally Well

The most interesting thing is that it will most probably be possible to fulfill the promises. The thing is that the statement has struck some sort of a balance of interests between the international financial organizations and the Russian authorities. On the one hand, all the things have been promised which, in accordance with IMF standards, are expected to lead to a monetary stabilization and liberalization of the economy. On the other, nothing has been promised which would clearly contradict the economic interests of the authorities themselves. For example, the government guarantees that it is not going to resort to Central Bank credits to finance budget outlays. One could hardly expect the contrary, in which case the slogan of fighting inflation with Western credits would lose all sense. However, the government at the same time says it may get a short-term credit worth 5 trillion rubles to bridge a temporary gap between budgetary revenues and expenditures. Moreover, the statement says the Central Bank can still grant credits to the budget in excess of this sum indirectly, by buying state securities on the secondary market. Emphasis is also placed on the government's intention to turn all its debts to the Central Bank into long-term coupon bonds which would then be floated on the market. As IMF experts see them, all these measures are anti-inflationary and they make the government substantially cut outlays for financial support of the economy. It is clear, however, that in Russian conditions financing the budget by means of the Central Bank buying securities does not specifically differ from direct loans from the Central Bank and is therefore an acceptable equivalent for the government.

The Russian authorities on the whole promise to phase out centralized budget financing to Russian enterprises in order to finally reduce the budget deficit to 3.5 percent of GNP in 1996 and have it down to 1.5 percent in 1997. Strangely, this is quite realistic (even disregarding the fact that such figures always vary with GNP calculation methods). The point is that the authorities have indeed been trying of late to redistribute finances through the banking system rather than through the budget (which, it should be noted, is being increasingly controlled by the IMF, something the statement speaks of in so many words). This policy is only confirmed in the statement. True, it stresses there will be no more easy credits or writing off of debts, but this is no problem at all for the authorities. Inefficient Russian enterprises are interested in credits per se. Strictly speaking, they do not care much about the terms of credits because they are usually unable to repay them.

The promises given in the foreign economic sphere are also quite feasible. Individual tariff benefits and special exporters are now things of the past. The state has sustained no special damage. First, both the benefits and special exporters may come back in a somewhat different shape. Second, the state will all the same find ways to use export revenue to supplement its own hard currency reserves—the more so because it promises in the statement that they are going to be increased to $11 billion by the end of 1995. It would also be easy to change as promised import tariffs, or simply put, to toughen import policy. All import duties below the 5-percent level (including duty-free imports) will be raised to this level. All the remaining rates will undergo minor changes and brought to sizes divisible by five. On the other hand, it has been promised to cut down to 30 percent the "peak rates" that overshoot this level. A plan for a gradual reduction of import tariffs during the coming three to five years is expected to be made public by as early as 1 April.

The "promises" regarding the attraction of Western credits are clearly feasible. The document puts it straight that the Russian balance of payments in 1995 will require additional Western aid worth $30 billion, which Russia intends to receive from the IMF, the World Bank, Western governments, and private sources.

Reform Value of Economic Package Assessed

MM0803142995 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 8

[Article by Aleksandr Privalov, Natalya Khoroshavina, and Marina Shpagina under "Political Vector" rubric: "Dig Deeper! The Profundity of the Edicts in the New Presidential Package Can Only Be Evaluated by Analyzing Them Thoroughly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's "packaged" edicts are most often frankly propagandistic in character, since they are intended to demonstrate not only the progressive trend of the reforms but also the comprehensive nature of that trend. But on this occasion the main purpose of the package, which was to publicize movements in government economic thinking, seems not to have been achieved. The assessments being made of the package (and of the economic policy that it represents in general) are undistinguished against the backdrop of the usual polemics. Government economists consider the edicts "profound, powerful, and utterly reformist" (Aleksandr Livshits) and expect them to be "a step across the next threshold confronting Russia's economic reforms" (Anatoliy Chubays), while the opposition regards them as scarcely reaching beyond what Sergey Glazyev calls "the total failure of the present government's muddle-headed economic policy and the need to take radical measures in the near future to avert a complete collapse of the economy."

Such an unpropitious beginning to a propaganda campaign obviously cannot be attributed solely to the fact that the public mind was preoccupied last week with matters far removed from the problems of economic reform, while the Duma was on vacation. If there really had been anything revolutionary in the edicts, the reaction to them could easily have been even more deferential than the silence or the standard comments that followed. More especially because this was the first such package that the president had signed since presenting his message to parliament and so should have indicated at least to some degree the direction in which it was planned to move the reforms. Nothing of the kind emerges at all positively from the package, although in principle it can be assumed from studying the edicts that in some sense they mean a liberalization of the economy and a more responsible attitude to the budget. But a closer reading of the edicts causes one, if not to doubt this strongly, at least not to expect a whirlwind of changes.

So what is there that is reformist about, for example, the edict "On Measures To Reinforce Financial Discipline in Executing the Federal Budget"? The president or, more accurately, the edict's authors understand as well as anyone the impracticability of the much-trumpeted budget. Real life will make mincemeat of it, especially now that the inflationary component in the revenue has been placed out of the government's reach. The only thing that the authors appear to want that probably really can be achieved is some centralization of budget distortions. If the newly signed edict is actually implemented (albeit that the very suggestion of an edict being implemented where a *law*—and the budget is a law—is not going to be implemented looks strange), then it will be possible to trace the distortion of the budget to presidential edicts and government decrees, and not to decisions of the Duma, which last week protested a second time against the government usurpation of the right to grant concessions.

There may be objections here, however. First, the Duma is a place where many official lobbies are represented, and removing it from the process of granting concessions will tend to curb the appetites of those seeking them. Although precisely the same lobbies also have representation in government circles that operates equally well—as successfully evidenced by the rapid drift of a number of government officials away from the idea of protecting the domestic market as such under the banner of protecting the domestic producer. A second objection comes down to the point that, judging by the edict, it will not be a matter of arbitrary distortions of the budget: The edicts and decrees through which it is planned to introduce concessions will have to indicate new sources of revenue together with the new expenditure items. But there is a counterargument to this objection too: The draft budget drained dry the possible sources of revenue, so that where the new edicts are concerned all that remains is either to indicate what are quite frankly imaginary revenues or else not to implement the edict along with the budget.

Nevetheless a good test for appraising the entire edict will be the implementation (or *non*implementation) of Point Four of the edict, which instructs the government "to present proposals within two weeks for rescinding earlier decisions by the Russian Federation president granting concessions on the payment of taxes, customs duties and other mandatory contributions to the federal budget." But it is pertinent to note here that a few days ago the GKAP [Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for the New Economic Structures] had already sent the government a letter analyzing practice in the granting of concessions and stressing that concessions had been granted to the state sector without coordination with the GKAP, actually in violation of Presidential Edict No. 915. The GKAP had asked the government to make officials personally responsible for any failure to send the GKAP notice of suggested concessions, as required by law. The new law on concessions aroused no enthusiasm in GKAP Chairman Leonid Bochin; and he had not even seen the edict, so he refrained from commenting.

There we might have left it, by and large: The problem of taxes is an old one, and there seem to be no particularly reformist fervor in the approaches to resolving it. From the viewpoint of the depth of commitment to reform, however, it may be worth looking at another edict from the package—"On Some Measures of State Regulation of Natural Monopolies in the Russian Federation." As KOMMERSANT has reported, GKAP Deputy Chairman Vadim Belov drew up this edict in conjunction with the presidential State Legal Administration, the government, and partly the Ministry of the Economy. In principle the edict is fully in accordance with the law on natural monopolies now on its way through the Federal Assembly, although the draft law does describe the areas subject to natural monopoly in more detail and does make the privoso that the number of these areas is liable to change. There are indeed fewer of these in the edict: Municipal service activities are to be regulated by local authorities.

Bold commitment to reform consists, however, not in reducing the quota of monopolists but in defining an approach to controlling them, and new monitoring bodies are being set up which will be responsible, according to the GKAP personnel who drew up the draft edict, for actions taken against monopolists. The actual removal of the new monitors—the Federal Service for Regulating Natural Monopolies in the Fuel and Power Complex, the Russian Federal Service for Regulating Natural Monopolies in Transport, and the Russian Federal Service for Regulating Natural Monopolies in the

Communications Sphere—from the literal jurisdiction of the GKAP and their direct subordination to the government looks like an even bolder move. And this kind of reform looks positively breathtaking against the backdrop of the relatively major future changes in fuel and power sector management prepared by the government: According to Yuriy Shafranik, a presidential edict on oil companies' activity and a decree transferring some enterprises from one company to another are being prepared for publication. Bearing in mind here that the GKAP (in a report on the development of competition in Russian Federation markets) assessed the level of competition in the fuel and power complex as extremely low and that the government is getting ready to set up a very powerful Russian national oil company, the force and the depth of reform commitment implied in the edicts really does deserve to be considered unprecedented.

Any serious argument over the merits or demerits of the package of edicts is, however, a thankless task. All three edicts are *framework* documents. And it will be possible to judge the extent of their profundity and liberality only once the framework begins to encompass specific documents.

Money-Based Privatization Stage Viewed

MM0703131895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Igor Karpenko: "Russia Begins Money-Based Privatization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In March the property of over 100 Russian enterprises is being put up for auction and investment and commercial sale in many parts of the country.

This event can be regarded as the start of mass privatization at the new, monetary, stage in Russia. In the past six months the process of the alteration of ownership has virtually come to a standstill for political, economic, and even cadres reasons—in three months the chairman of the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Administration of State Property] has been replaced three times. Suffice it to say that in January state revenue from privatization was less than 20 billion rubles [R] and in February the situation was virtually unchanged. The size of deals has been diminishing every month on the stock market and the price of shares has been falling. Now it looks as though a breakthrough in the situation has emerged: The president and government have firmly stated that the reforms course is immutable. The Duma adopted the "tough" budget option at the third reading.

The revenue from the sale of state property has been determined at R9.1 trillion for this year. Approximately 50 percent of this money should be provided by the sale of federal property, the other half by the sale of municipal property. That means that almost R20 trillion worth of property must be offered for sale since the money is shared between the budget and the investments of the enterprises themselves in virtually equal halves. In other words we will now have to sell an average of R2 trillion worth of state property every month. A very difficult task. In speaking of it Anatoliy Chubays stressed:

"Privatization in our country is not voucher privatization any more but money-based privatization. That means that its results are assessed very simply—on the basis of money. If there is money in the Ministry of Finances accounts from this source then work goes ahead. If there is no money, work is at a standstill."

The second task is investments and the influx of money into investment-funded enterprises. We have to be ready for investment demand to increase as inflation declines. That demand is static at present. But it is inconceivable to let slip the year of 1995 and to defer even longer the start of the investment process in Russia.

According to specialists' calculations the total volume of investments in production should be no less than $10 billion this year. What will back up these investments and receipts for the budget? The 100 enterprises scheduled for privatization in March include the shares of oil and gas enterprises, including Komineft, and the "YeES Rossii" Russian joint-stock company, metallurgical enterprises headed by the "Norilskiy Nikel" Russian joint-stock company, enterprises of the timber, chemical, and machine building industries, and so forth. But these are just the first "swallows." By April plans and schedules will be prepared for the sale of Russia's biggest enterprises for the whole of 1995.

Alfred Kokh, deputy chairman of the Goskomimushchesvto, described the new sources for stocking the stock market which have never before been used at auctions. Shares from holding companies, the lion's share of which consists of the state section, are being auctioned. The balance between really essential investment needs and the budget's fiscal requirement is being detailed and will be elaborated individually for each sector. For instance, for the defense enterprises whose shares will deliberately not collect money on the market, preference will be given to investment programs, and so forth.

The shares of the Aeroflot and maritime and river shipping companies (the Northwest, Baltic, and other companies) are planned for sale. The question is being raised of reducing the deadline for assigning blocks of shares at many enterprises to the state. It is also planned to put into operation very rapidly the large quantities of remaining shares illegally held by regional committees and property funds under local administration pressure. If these blocks of shares are not sold within the strictly set planned deadlines the local budget is deprived of the revenue from their sale—the money will be distributed between the federal budget and the enterprises.

There are already hundreds of bankrupt enterprises, whose property will be put up for auction in individual lots in 1995 to pay off their debts. Here the lots are formed in such a way that a potential purchaser can organize his own production on the basis of this property. Several dozen enterprises will be put up for investment competitions in their entirety, retaining their corporate identity.

Large blocks of shares of the most prestigious enterprises (of the gas and oil complex and so forth) will be formed to sell on foreign exchanges. For that the Federal Property Fund is creating its own offices abroad.

The second emission of shares—thousands of enterprises have applied for it—will be a major reserve for funding the market and investments this year. But the collectives still have to learn to make correct use of these emissions and the market has to learn to work with these papers.

The sale of land should resolutely move the stock market situation from a standstill. In some regions the sale of land plots attached to enterprises has already begun. The more widespread dissemination of this practice is still being prevented by the price, obviously put too high by the recent decree and exceeding the normative price by a factor of 1,400 in some cases! These payments will put any enterprise on the verge of ruin and bankruptcy. And it is characteristic that 90 percent of privatized enterprises simply retracted their applications to buy land plots after this decree was published. Now this problem is being studied both technically and economically—whoever is on it should be in a state to buy the land.

A. Kokh termed "irresponsible" the situation which has taken shape with regard to ordinary land plots and forest resources. All previous legislative acts regarding land were repealed by the Civil Code. At the same time its operation in this respect was suspended by the Duma until the elaboration of a Land Code. As a result for the third month now the country has been living without any legislation in this field. But the absence of laws is far worse even than bad laws. The government intends to ask the Duma to repeal its decision to suspend the 17th chapter of the Civil Code. That would normalize the situation. An appeal to deputies will be prepared asking them also to accelerate the discussion of laws on the protection of shareholders' rights, on securities, and so forth.

Real steps are being taken in the creation and consolidation of the instruments of the stock market—deposit and clearing companies, registrars, and a large guarantee fund for foreign investors. The federal fund corporation of joint-stock companies with an incorporation capital of R1.5 billion sponsored by 24 organizations is beginning to operate. The corporation will organize and hold all-Russian and interregional money auctions.

The foundation, the linchpin, of all work will be the pre-prepared official plans and schedules for holding auctions and competitions within strictly defined deadlines, with previously known figures relating to sold property. That is a basic feature of the monetary stage of privatization.

Consumer Prices Increase 11 Percent in Feb

MM0603090695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 95 p 1

[News column report: "Prices Go Up by 11 Percent in February"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to figures from the State Committee for Statistics, the price of consumer goods went up by 11 percent in February. Paid services to the population went up the most—by 19.4 percent, and nonfood goods went up the least—by 9.4 percent. In the last week of February the price increase slowed down appreciably and constituted 1.5 percent.

Government Advises Agriculture on Bankruptcy Procedure

LD0803152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 8 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 8 (Interfax)—The Russian government had drafted guidelines on the bankruptcy procedure for insolvent farms and other agricultural businesses. Sources in the government told Interfax that this procedure would be applied to the country's farming businesses in 1995.

The draft adds a number of "sectoral specifics" to the indices listed in the May 20, 1994 ordinance on insolvent (bankrupt) businesses, in particular the need to maintain the use to which the land was put, the biological cycles (seasonal changes) and the variety of ownership kinds and ways of running the business.

The debts run by the state to the business for the products purchased, budget debts to it, the costs of maintaining social infrastructure, availability of land, labor and materials, weather conditions and other circumstances will be borne in mind in making a decision about insolvency of the business.

The liquidation of the business would proceed by selling it in parts (lots); the proceeds of the sales would be used to pay debts to the creditors.

The profitability of agricultural businesses in 1994 averaged a mere 3 percent, the fraction of loss making businesses increased three-fold and over 3,000 are on the verge of ruin, officials in the Agriculture and Food Ministry told Interfax.

'Permneft' Enterprise Amalgamates with 'LUKoil'

MM1303092095 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 2

[Statement by Andrey Zuyev, press attache of the LUKoil oil company: "LUKoil Provides Amplification"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently some mass media have published items about the proposed merger of the "Permneft" oil refining enterprise with the "Slavneft" oil company. This is presented as a document already signed in the Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the Russian Government.

Obviously because of unverified information or for political reasons or perhaps for a number of other reasons a report has been published which does not accord with reality.

The "Permneft" enterprise has decided to join the "LUKoil" oil company for economic reasons. This decision has already been agreed with the Perm Oblast administration, the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, and the labor collective of the "Permneft" enterprise.

But if we nevertheless suppose that "Permneft" had joined "Slavneft" then that decision would have cost the Russian economy at least $300 million in order to "circumvent" "LUKoil" through the pipe which would have to be built for the purpose.

The "LUKoil" oil company is "Permneft's" special exporter. The Perm oil extracting company is already working with "Lukoil's" financial company. The "Permneft" leadership has voiced the wish to transfer its drilling companies to the "LUKoil" unified drilling system. As of today over 25 percent of "Permneft's" voting shares already belong to structures "friendly" with "LUKoil."

Metals Exports Should See 'Steady Growth' This Year

MM1003151195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 95 Weekend Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Not Just Oil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Steady growth in Russian metal exports is expected in 1995. In addition to further deliveries to the United States and West Europe, the sales markets will be expanded to embrace states in the Asian region, particularly South Korea, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

According to Russian Federation Metallurgy Committee figures, last year Russia exported metals to a value of $12 billion.

The situation in the metals industry is tending to stabilize thanks to the liberalization of the metal-exporting terms and also the implementation of the federal program for modernizing the sector.

Urgent Measures Needed To Replace Aging Satellites

LD1003144395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 10 (Interfax)—Russia will lose up to $1 billion if it fails to finance new communication satellites on time and will be forced to urgently purchase Western satellites and equipment, the General Director of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev said.

He said the condition of Russian space satellites was such that without urgent measures to replace many of them Russia would have only one operational satellite in 1996. Of the 10 communication satellites of the Gorizont family, six have already ended their service life. In 1995 three new communication satellites and one Express satellite must be put in space and one Ekran satellite replaced.

Meanwhile, 80-85 percent of the ground infrastructures, including 7,000 relay stations for TV Channel 1 and more than 4,000 relay stations for Channel 2 can operate only in conjunction with communication satellites of domestic manufacture, Koptev said. The use of foreign satellites would require replacing part of the ground equipment, too.

International Affairs

Kuchma, Udovenko Attend UN Summit in Copenhagen

Kuchma Departs for Summit; Speech Previewed

LD1003225095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2027 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 10 Mar—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma left for Copenhagen today. He leads the delegation from Ukraine which will attend the world summit on social development.

It is expected that the Ukrainian president will make a speech at one of the sittings. The head of state intends proposing the inclusion of clauses in the forum's final documents which will reflect the serious social problems existing in countries with crossover economies and countries implementing radical political and socio-economic reforms. According to reports from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma will draw the attention of the heads of state to the problems which Ukraine is now trying to surmount. These mainly relate to reducing the national revenue, the slump in manufacturing, and the fall of the population's living standards. Particular emphasis will be placed on the negative effect of the Chernobyl factor.

Kuchma Addresses UN Summit

LD1103153595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COPENHAGEN, Mar 11 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Ukraine shares the main UN approaches to social development problems, said President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine on Saturday [11 March], addressing participants in the summit on social development, which convened in Copenhagen under UN auspices.

The concept of stable social progress oriented to human needs, which is reflected in the Declaration and Program of Actions to be adopted by the forum, is consonant with our vision of the ways to resolve socio-economic problems in Ukraine, Kuchma noted.

He said he is confident that this can be achieved only by joint efforts, on the basis of active partnership between the government and civic society.

As other former Soviet republics, Ukraine has to accomplish the tasks of dual transition - from totalitarianism to democracy and from centralized to market economy. Besides, Ukraine is facing the task of reviving its ethnic specificity and getting consolidated as a nation, Kuchma said.

Characterizing the critical economic situation in Ukraine, which inherited a deformed economy from the former USSR, the president stressed that in the past four years a catastrophic increase in the prices of fuel took place in his country - prices went up by 30 to 40 thousand times. The crisis aggravated the socio-economic problems, which is fraught with a national catastrophe and requires qualitatively new approaches and resolute actions, President Kuchma said.

As he noted, the scope and specificity of problems faced by the countries with transitional economy determine the need of extensive international support for reforms designed to ensure irreversibility for the process of reforms, which is a guarantee of universal peace and stability.

Kuchma thanked the UN leadership for the circumstance that the problems of countries with transitional economy find support in the world community.

Udovenko Meets With Iran's Velayati

LD1103210295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1820 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen—"The meetings between presidents and foreign ministers of many countries on 11 March are not only about visits, but about expanding cooperation with those countries," Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said to UNIAN.

His meeting with Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has already taken place. According to Udovenko, it was about making mutual relations between the two countries more vigorous.

Kuchma Comments on Summit

LD1103204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, Mar 11 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said he supported a proposal by Danish Foreign Minister Rasmussen that industrialized countries write off all debts for the Third World.

"The proposal immediately caught my attention," Kuchma told Interfax-Ukraine in an exclusive interview in Copenhagen, where he had come to take part in a world summit on social development.

Commenting on the summit, the president said: "It's always interesting to hear various approaches and various assessments, and also talk to many leaders."

Kuchma had several informal meetings on Saturday morning. "Those were brief and good conversations," he said.

Kuchma: U.S. Relations 'Long-Term'

LD1203172795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COPENHAGEN, Mar 12 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Ukrainian President Leonid

Kuchma stated that "relations between Ukraine and the U.S. are of a long-term, not momentary nature." He made this statement in an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine after his talks with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore in Copenhagen during a U.N. conference on social development.

Kuchma said that the talks dealt with U.S. financial aid to Ukraine and the possibility of extending a new credit for the development of Ukrainian agriculture.

Kuchma reaffirmed his invitation to Bill Clinton to visit Ukraine at any suitable time.

Kuchma, Turkish Counterpart Talk

LD1203174095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, Mar 12 (Interfax - Ukraine)—During talks in Copenhagen on Saturday [11 March], Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel discussed problems of the development of the Black Sea Economic Community. According to sources in the Ukrainian delegation, Demirel said that the Black Sea must become a zone of peace.

Kuchma stated that he would make every effort to solve the Black Sea Fleet problem which, he said, would help turn the Black Sea into a peace zone.

Turkey will back Ukraine's efforts to join the Council of Europe, said Demirel. He also thanked Kuchma for his assistance in ensuring the return of Crimean Tatars to Crimea.

Chief of the Ukrainian president's Staff Dmitriy Tabachnik told Interfax - Ukraine that Ukraine and Turkey were to sign an agreement on measures to avoid double taxing and on the mutual protection of investments.

Demirel invited Kuchma to pay an official visit to Turkey.

Norway, Sweden Stress Support for Reform

LD1203194495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By UKRINFORM special correspondent Viktor Chamara for ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen March 12 TASS—Norway and Sweden pledged substantial support to Ukraine on Sunday [12 March].

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and her Swedish counterpart Ingvar Carlsson assured Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on Sunday of their support for Ukraine's policy of reform.

The meetings were held separately, with literally a two-minute interval between them, at the congress center where the world summit meeting for social development is winding up its work.

The discussions focused on the situation in Europe in general following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Kuchma's partners pointed out that in light of the north European countries' obligations to the Baltic states, the keys from independence and particularly Estonia's are in Ukraine.

In an exclusive interview with UKRINFORM on Sunday, Vladimir Furkalo, head of the foreign relations department in the Ukrainian president's administration, said that both meetings opened up new prospects for Ukraine's international cooperation and gave a boost to its activity in the northern direction.

Kuchma, Finnish President Discuss Aid

LD1303095395 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Finland is ready to render aid to Ukraine in the field of energy conservation and the progressive technology needed for this purpose. Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari assured Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma of this during a meeting with him.

One of the main subjects of the conversation between the two state leaders, who are taking part in the world summit meeting on social development in the Danish capital, was the fate of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Naturally one could take a political decision to close the station, Leonid Kuchma noted, but it will not be an optimal and all-embracing one because it will not take account of financial, social, or technical problems, which need overall resolution. A serious technical and economic program is necessary, the Ukrainian president stressed.

The meeting also concerned Ukraine's relations with the European Union and European countries, and the development of bilateral Ukrainian-Finnish relations.

Udovenko Worried by NATO Expansion

LD1303114295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen—"Ukraine is worried about NATO's expansion, which could lead to a new division of Europe into two blocs," the Ukrainian foreign minister said in an interview with Unian on 12 March. According to the foreign minister, this issue was raised in parallel with the UN social development conference at meetings with the leaders of north European countries and Turkey, who occupy "an equivocal position, although they perceive the Ukrainian position with understanding."

Ukraine stresses the normalization of relations between the North Atlantic Alliance and Russia, Hennadiy Udovenko noted. "The Russian factor should without fail be taken into account."

The Ukrainian foreign minister stated that consultations have recently taken place in Moscow between Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Moldova at the level of deputy foreign ministers, at which the NATO expansion in particular had been discussed.

Hennadiy Udovenko stressed that the Ukrainian Government should elaborate a single strategy on this issue in the near future.

Kiev, Cuba Set To Restore Economic Cooperation

LD1103102495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuba's Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas met Ukraine's Ambassador Oleksandr Taranenko. The two men discussed the state of bilateral relations. In particular, they emphasized the necessity of restoring them completely, primarily in those industries where our countries have stable traditions of partnership. They also discussed Cuba's urgent need for spare parts for Ukrainian-made machinery and equipment. The Cuban minister expressed his satisfaction with the setting up of an intergovernment bilateral commission for trade and economic, and scientific and technical cooperation.

Funds Approved for Yugoslav Peacekeeping Contingent

LD1003212395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2015 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 10 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukraine will spend $7,939,000 on the maintenance of its peacekeeping contingent in former Yugoslavia in 1995. The republic's Finance Ministry is to channel the money to the Defense Ministry according to a government resolution passed on March 9.

Until recently, Ukraine monthly received $3 million in UN compensation for the republic's expenses in this area.

Over the 2.5 years of the Ukrainian contingent's stay in former Yugoslavia, a total of 11 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and about 50 wounded. At the moment, a total of 1,132 Ukrainian servicemen, including two battalions of 551 troops each, nine military policemen and 10 observers, are stationed in the region.

Kuchma Recounts Meeting With IMF Managing Director

LD1103204695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, Mar 11 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma expressed satisfaction on Saturday [11 March] with talks he had on Friday evening with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus. The meeting took place in Kiev.

"I was given assurances of full support from the IMF, which is tremendous progress for us today. The policy of developed countries and financial organizations depends on the conduct of the IMF," Kuchma told reporters in Copenhagen, where he is taking part in a world summit on social development.

He quoted Camdessus as saying that "the solution of the problem of Ukrainian debts to Russia is one of the main tasks for the IMF."

Camdessus 'Pleased' With Results

LD1003224895 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 10 Mar—"I am very pleased and satisfied that I have come to Kiev. I am also satisfied with the results of the talks, which were held between the IMF and the Ukrainian Government, because we agreed on a very important economic program for which we are providing aid and support, particularly within the bounds of the 'stand-by' agreement, and also on the second tranche of credit for systemic transformations," Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, stated at Borispol airport.

"We are very satisfied with the results and consequences of the efforts made by the Ukrainian Government and central bank to overcome the problem of inflation, because this is the main key obstacle on the path of further economic growth. The program drawn up by your government is an all-embracing and comprehensive one and sets forth a whole series of political means directed at overcoming inflation and at the further development of exports.

"Thus, it will help you to take a decisive step on the path toward developing a market economy. On our part, we will endeavor to provide sufficient financial support for this program, in particular by applying special efforts to provide support for Ukraine on the part of the international community and on the part of Ukraine's financial and trading partners.

"I think that the first results, which we have already produced on this path, inspire very good prospects. I think that you will very quickly become convinced of this, and I think that the results of the consultative meeting in Paris will be very inspiring. So will the decision of the fund's executive council."

With regard to the IMF's participation in settling the situation of Ukraine's debts to the Russian Federation, Mr. Camdessus noted: "Now, after my meeting in Moscow with the Russian president and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, I have received the most vigorous assurances that your Russian friends will approach this problem in a very balanced way, and thus this problem will be settled."

National Affairs

Kuchma Signs Edict on State Credit

LD1003202195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1640 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 March Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed an edict "On procedures for granting state credit support to enterprises in 1995." Dmytro Tabachynk, head of the president's administration, informed UNIAN of this. In accordance with the edict, he said, this support will be granted from the state budget only to state enterprises or those with 50 percent or more state capital.

An edict "On urgent measures regarding financial and credit provision for sectors of the fuel and power engineering complex in 1995" has also been signed.

Dmytro Tabachnyk reported that a presidential edict on determining the procedure for calculating state enterprises' debts was being prepared.

The head of the administration also reported that a draft law of Ukraine "On financial industrial groups", drawn up by specialists at the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy and the president's administration, had been dispatched to the Supreme Council on the day when the veto on the corresponding presidential decree was imposed. Dmytro Tabachnyk believes that as the process of setting up financial industrial groups is a protracted one, "a process of several months", a veto should not have been imposed on the decree, but the submitted draft law should have had additional work done on it. Dmytro Tabachnyk expressed surprise that the veto was imposed "by the forces of leftist groups", which are in favour of integration with Russia and other states. "Financial industrial groups mean the revival of the methods of such integration, aimed at reviving production," - he said.

Kuchma Signs Edict on Nuclear Policies, Ecology

LD1003173795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 10 Mar 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 10 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree on measures of shaping the state nuclear policies and ecological security.

In line with the decree, that Commission for Nuclear Policies under the Ukrainian President, was transformed into the Commission for Nuclear Policies and Ecological Security under the Ukrainian President. Valery Kukhar was appointed its chairman.

The Secretariat of the National Security Council under the Ukrainian president is to offer organizational and technical assistance to the Commission.

Decision No 34 of the Ukrainian president of March 19, 1993, "On the Commission on Nuclear Policies under the Ukrainian President", as well as Article No. 1 of the Ukrainian president's Decree No.758 of December 10, 1994 "On the Commission for Nuclear Policies and On the Situation Center Under the Ukrainian President" are considered invalid.

Moroz, Communists Criticize Kuchma's Policies

LD1203184295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 12 TASS—"Only left-wing forces can take Ukraine out of the deep crisis and ensure decent life for its citizens," Ukrainian parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said as he addressed the second congress of the Communist Party of Ukraine that ended in Kiev on Sunday [12 March].

Moroz is also the leader of Ukrainian socialists.

Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko and other speakers lashed out at Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's policy, which they said "is leading to the enrichment of the rich and impoverishment of the poor."

They also criticised the parliament for not always consistent stance.

The participants in the congress which was attended by over 400 delegates from 25 regional party organisations, as well as guests from the near abroad and foreign countries, stressed the need to "rise to protect the country from plunder called privatisation and fight for power by constitutional means."

The delegates to the congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party which has more than 130,000 members confirmed their commitment to build a country of "equality and social justice."

Communists To Oppose Kuchma's Economic Reform Policy

LD1103162995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The 2d (30th) Congress of the Communist Party of Ukraine got under way on 11 March. Its delegates will probably pass a resolution on opposition to the economic reform policy of President Leonid Kuchma. The leader of Ukrainian Communists, Petro Symonenko, stated this in his report. He emphasized that the Communist Party of Ukraine comes out against the reforms that are being carried out at the expense of the people. Petro Symonenko also accused the top leadership of the state of blindly following the instructions of international financial organizations, which led "to the impoverishment of the people of Ukraine."

"We do not support the president's initiatives concerning the law on power, whose aim is to establish the supremacy of the president over all the branches of states power," he emphasized.

In Petro Symonenko's opinion, at present it would be worthwhile to focus attention on drafting a new constitution, which should retain as many social guarantees to the people as possible. He is convinced that it would be expedient to adopt it through a nation-wide referendum, at which the issue of state symbols and restoration of the Union of Fraternal Nations should also be submitted.

The Congress of the Communist Party of Ukraine is to adopt the party's program, amend its rules and adopt a number of statements and appeals.

No 'Left-Wing Forces' in Kravchuk-Headed Union

AU1003121195 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 7 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Prykhodko: "Will 'Porozuminnya' Justify Its Name?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has again assured us that he had no intention at all of leaving the state's political life, not to mention public life. Last Saturday [4 March], the founding members of the all-Ukrainian public association "Porozuminnya" [Mutual Understanding], headed by Mr. Kravchuk, held a conference. The conference announced the creation of the "Porozuminnya" and adopted the statutes of the new public association, whose number in our state is even difficult to determine.

As pointed out in the resolution, statehood, democracy, and reforms is the association's principal motto. It has emerged in order to consolidate the Ukrainian nation, achieve harmony in society, mutual understanding among various political, religious, ethnic, and social groups, and unite democratic and patriotic forces in our society. The "Porozuminnya" will promote the formation of state-oriented consciousness of Ukrainian citizens, struggle against any split of Ukraine, including linguistic, political, or territorial, promote dissemination of truthful information, most extensive development of languages and cultures of ethnic minorities, and fulfill many other tasks. In short, the same slogans and tasks as may be heard from any public organization or association. Will there also be deeds?

Right after the conference of the association's founding members, a news conference was held. In his speech there, Leonid Kravchuk said that the association will do all it can to support the reform-oriented course and true reforms, which are today conducted by President L. Kuchma ("On this, our points of view fully coincide"), and will put in every effort to help, persuade, and convince the public that today we do not have any other choice. In other words, a structure has been organized that is ready to come out in favor of uniting all those forces that are on Ukraine's side. However, as one could infer from Leonid Makarovych's speech, left-wing forces will not have to participate in uniting all forces. Because (I quote): "Left-wing forces, taking advantage of the difficulties, keep instilling in the minds of the people a single idea to the effect that their only salvation is in the restoration of the Soviet Union or in a union with Russia or other states. As though there is no other way out," and as though the left-wing forces "are putting the entire blame for the economic difficulties upon those forces that occupy right-wing positions." It turns out, therefore, that the left-wing forces are not patriotic and do not stand up for Ukraine. Well gentlemen, shall we again start dividing our society into those who belong and those who do not belong?

National Guard Changes Part of Power Struggle

MK1003114095 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 10/86, 9-15 Mar (Signed to press 9 Mar 95) p 4

[Report by Grigoriy Spektor under the "Intrigue" rubric: "'Moroz's Guards' Will Become 'Kuchma's Musketeers'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reorganization of the National Guard has been launched in the republic on the initiative of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Analysts assess this as another spiral in the struggle between presidential structures and the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine.

Supreme Commander Kuchma now has at his disposal a big but inefficient army which has all but forgotten about combat training and whose morale is unenviable.

As for the National Guard created on the basis of special-purpose operational units and subunits of the internal troops with combat experience in "hot spots" of the ex-USSR, they are fully manned with the finest conscripts. In addition to having special equipment they have excellent armored vehicles, artillery, and helicopters. The Guards have smooth-running command and control and communications. They spare neither time nor effort on training in hand-to-hand combat, shooting, and special skills. It is the National Guard who guard the Supreme Soviet, the president's staff, foreign missions, and the most important strategic and national economy facilities, and patrol the streets in major cities.

Six divisions of the National Guard are, perhaps, stronger that the entire Ukrainian Army. But the fact that this powerful, combat-ready structure is subordinated to the republic's Supreme Soviet seems to have played a fateful role in its destiny. Tensions in relations between the parliamentarians led by Oleksandr Moroz and the presidential team are growing. Military specialists are inclined to attribute precisely to this the decision made by the president-supreme commander on the transfer of some of the operational regiments under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which they describe as "pulling the National Guard to pieces." But political decisions often have a logic of their own. In this case it consists in the fact that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to which part of the National Guard is being subordinated, is under the charge of Vyktor Radchenko. This former KGB-SPU [latter expansion unknown] general is an active supporter of the president.

Another move that has been blocked is the creation on the basis of the National Guard of Ukraine of a center unique in the CIS to train instructors for special-purpose subunits, which will undoubtedly further weaken the National Guard's muscle.

New Congress of Ukrainians in Crimea Criticized

LD1103210695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—The deputies at the second congress of Crimea's Ukrainians, which took place 9-10 March, adopted a decision to set up a new civic organization, the Congress of Ukrainians of Crimea, and to confirm its statute and program.

Vyacheslav Chornovil and Mykhaylo Kosiv, members of the Ukrainian Supreme Council presidium; people's deputy of Ukraine Volodymyr Mulyava, the Ukrainian Cassock chief; and Mykhaylo Plavyuk, ex-president of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile, took part in the congress' work.

A number of Crimea's civic organizations, in particular the councils of the All-Ukrainian Civic Congress of Crimea, the Crimean organization of the Ukrainian Republic Party, and the Crimean leadership of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, have made a statement, which says in particular, that the creation of a new civic organization, which "will stand above all parties and organizations," is impossible both legally and practically, and that this will hardly become a uniting factor.

Crimean Prime Minister Reports Threatening Calls

LD1103203695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Mar 11 (Interfax - Ukraine)— The prime minister of Ukraine's autonomous region of Crimea, Anatoliy Franchuk, said on Saturday [11 March] that he had had three telephone calls in the last 10 days in which threats were made to him.

One of the calls came to his home, the others to his office, Franchuk told reporters. One of the callers threatened to murder him if he continued "to direct the government in that way," he said.

The premier said he thought the threats had come as a response to the position of his government, which "takes the enforcement of the legislation seriously" and has thereby stopped some "material and monetary resources" from "drifting aside" as happened before.

There were political motives for the threats as well, Franchuk said. Namely, some forces seek to weaken the region's executive, because "there are those who did not expect that a government formed on the basis of an agreement between parliamentary groups would quickly take control of the situation," he said.

Economic Issues

Kiev To Receive $1.5 Billion Credit From IMF

LD1103112095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 11 TASS—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will appropriate a 1,492-billion-dollar credit to Ukraine, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said at a meeting with Ukrainian Speaker Aleksandr Moroz here on Saturday [11 March].

Commenting on the meeting, Chairman of the Parliamentary Finance and Banking Commission Viktor Suslov noted in an interview with ITAR-TASS today that the IMF's financial aid will become "a real support for economic reforms in Ukraine".

According to Suslov, the credit will be received over the next two months. True, it is early to speak about all conditions for the use of this financial aid. They have not been fully discussed, the chairman said.

However, Governor of the National Bank Viktor Yushchenko told ITAR-TASS that all the money will be used to balance the foreign and domestic deficits. According to the governor, there are no barrier to receiving the credit from the IMF.

The legislature will approve the budget the next week and then the National Bank "will come out with a monetary directive for 1995". Yushchenko stressed that the IMF "agreed to a budget deficit amounting to 7.3 per cent from the national gross product and is ready to allocate a reserve credit for it".

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Camdessus signed an agreement in Moscow on Friday on extending a 6.25-billion-dollar credit to Russia from the IMF.

IMF Director: Russia To Reschedule Fuel Debt

LD1103120795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1130 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev, 11 Mar—"During my meetings with the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, I received assurances from both sides that the relations between the two countries would be built on the principles of honesty and mutual advantage. This meets the interests of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), since we are allocating credits to both Ukraine and Russia for the implementation of economic reforms," said Michel Camdessus, IMF managing director, at a news conference held here today.

He said Russia would offer a number of concessions to Ukraine. This involves first and foremost a restructuring of Ukraine's debt for energy resources. Ukraine should strictly adhere to the agreed schedule and pay Russia on time for the current supplies of oil and gas. Michel Camdessus also said that, in accordance with a request of Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma, IMF representatives would attend the talks between Russia and Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Belarus

Arms Shipment to Peru Before Ecuador Conflict

WS1303114895 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 10 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Ihar Baranowski: "How Belarusians Helped Peruvians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **It has become clear that our country had something to do with the recent conflict between Peru and Ecuador.**

At the end of last year, the Peruvian military received a Christmas gift in the form of a large shipment of Kalashnikov assault rifles from Belarus. Brest newspapers already reported on the departure of an IL-76 airplane from the Brest airport with a large cargo of weapons destined for Peru. At that time, however, it was reported that everything had been done legally, and it was guaranteed that the weapons would not be sent to any of the world's hot spots.

The contract (amounting to $385,000) was concluded by the Minsk-based "Belzneshpramservis" company. A month after the shipment of the Belarusian weapons to Peru, the world community learned about the sudden assault by Peruvian troops on disputed territory controlled by Ecuador.

Kinkel Said To Be 'Lecturing' Lukashenka

MM1003141995 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 1

[Article by Yu. Stepanenko: "According to the 'Drang nach Osten' Principle: German Minister Lecturing Belarusian President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk— A peremptory bellow has issued forth from the banks of the Rhine. FRG Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has lectured Alyaksandr Lukashenka on what he can and cannot do in Belarus.

A directive by Lukashenka suspending the destruction of certain categories of weapons in the republic served as the grounds for the minister's displeasure. Alyaksandr Ryhoravich announced this decision when delivering his report on Defenders of the Fatherland Day. The world is changing, and we cannot be perpetual prisoners of set formulas which do not correspond to the new situation, he commented. Belarus is today having to implement many elements of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armaments, which was signed back at the time of NATO-Warsaw Pact confrontation. "However," Lukashenka stated, "it must be understood that the implementation of the Treaty demands large resources, large resources which we do not have. For this reason I have issued a directive suspending the destruction of certain categories of armaments."

To understand the president's motivation for this move you need to know the situation that has been created on the republic's territory in connection with the destruction of the quantity of weapons stipulated by the Treaty. I will cite just one excerpt from a specialists' handbook: "As a consequence of the collapse of the USSR, a heavy economic burden has fallen on Belarus as regards the destruction of an inordinately large number of arms and equipment. Just in terms of tanks Belarus' quota is four times greater than that of the United States, France, and Britain taken together. Given that the cost of destroying one tank is $2,500, an infantry fighting vehicle $1,500, and a combat aircraft $5,000 to $7,000, total outlay just on completing the destruction of equipment will be around $2.5 million. Moreover, considerable investment will also be required in environmental protection measures, the estimated cost of which will exceed the actual expenditure on reducing the equipment."

But that is not all. When the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed there existed two very powerful military groups—the Warsaw Pact and the NATO bloc. Let us, for argument's sake, call them the East and the West. The volume of cuts in each of them was planned on the basis of the total number of weapons in order to achieve equality of forces as a result. But the situation has radically changed since the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. The GDR is now part of the FRG, and a large quantity of military equipment and weapons has swelled the side which NATO represents, that is to say, the Western military group, with a corresponding reduction in the East's quantity of arms.

Moreover, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, and Bulgaria have dropped out of the Eastern group. They are seeking to join NATO. And in the near future, when this does happen, the Western group will receive a huge number of extra weapons, with a corresponding reduction in those of the Eastern. And meticulous implementation of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armed Forces will lead to overwhelming Western military superiority.

Lukashenka certainly had all this in mind when he said that we cannot be perpetual prisoners of set formulas which do not correspond to the new situation. He could, of course, also have said that the Western politicians are concealing from the public the consequences of implementing in the new situation a treaty which was adopted at a different time and with a completely different configuration of forces and that implementing cuts today according to the norms set then is patent political cheating....

But the Belarusian president said nothing about that. Moreover, he did not make a decision to stop scrapping weapons. He merely directed that the process of reducing them be suspended as a temporary measure which does not envisage the republic's withdrawal from the treaty but expresses the hope that Belarus' approaches to the problems of disarmament will be duly appraised by the international community and that the republic is entitled to count on specific assistance in resolving the range of issues connected with the practical implementation of the treaty.

But even this perfectly understandable and justified move prompted an instant attack from the West. If you read the German minister's statement carried in Minsk newspapers, surprise, surprise. Mr. Kinkel describes the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] Treaty as a forward-looking buttress of security for the whole of Europe . A buttress which is right now so buckled that it could collapse at any moment and which in future threatens to become the buttress of just one wall, the Western wall, jeopardizing the whole peace edifice, is fine? He speaks of the need to take all countries' security into consideration without explaining at all whose security precisely is being undermined in the present situation by the destruction of weapons in Belarus and the other CIS countries in line with the quotas established by the OSCE Treaty.

"I urge the Belarusian leadership to think through their proposed moves"—that is the overt warning bordering on a threat with which Dr. Kinkel ends his message.

All this, alas, is reminiscent of the infamous "Drang nach Osten" policy. Unfortunately, until recently this policy has encountered no resistance, and Russia has retreated most of all under its onslaught. It is no wonder that one political expert here should say in assessing Lukashenka's move : "Of course, the Russian leadership can sink to its knees and even lie supine, obligingly swallowing the West's remedies for 'strengthening' it. But such a degrading posture is not acceptable to everyone."

It seems that there really do remain politicians on the territory of this destroyed great power able to retain their dignity and pride in difficult times and to uphold their people's interests, regardless of the mass onslaught of Western "virtues."

Minsk Unable To Pay for Weapons Elimination Program

LD1103100995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1532 GMT 10 Mar 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar - TASS]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minsk, 10 Mar—Foreign Minister of Belarus Uladzimir Syanko has denied rumors that his republic allegedly intends to quit the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. "We would like to emphasize that Belarus is not quitting the treaty and is not renouncing the obligations it has undertaken—it merely suspends the financing of the elimination of conventional weapons," the foreign minister said at a news conference held today [10 March] at the National Press Centre. He stressed that the decision was caused entirely by financial considerations, because at the moment the republic lacks the funds to pay the plants involved in destruction of the military equipment defined by the treaty. At the Borisov works alone, where tanks are being scrapped, up to 20,000 tonnes scrap armor has piled up. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister highly praised the assistance provided by the United States of America through implementing the Nunn-Lugar program for eliminating nuclear weapons. He said the USA was ready to support Belarus in fulfilling its obligations stipulated by the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. However, at this stage Uladzimir Syanko cannot say when Belarus will be able to resume financing the elimination of conventional armaments envisaged by the treaty.

National Bank Chief Answers President's Criticism

LD1003204995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stanislav Bogdankevich, chairman of the National Bank, told INTERFAX that neither the Constitution, nor the legislation, nor the president could deprive him of his civil rights.

This was his comment on the recent remarks made by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka at his meeting with the national TV company staff that he would ask parliament to remove Bogdankevich from his office if he ran for parliament in the May 14 elections. Lukashenka believed that a financier did not have to meddle in politics.

Asked what conclusions he made, Bogdankevich said: "As a citizen of Belarus I have equal rights with the president or prime minister and so reserve a right to run for parliament if 500 voters sign a petition for my registration, as required by the republic's Constitution."

He was convinced that if the government had not doubled the minimal wages, inflation could be brought under control in March. IF Note: The Belarussian government increased the minimal wages from 30,000 to 60,000 Belarussian rubles ($1 = 11,670 Belarussian rubles) and made the minimal wages for the lowest paid workers in government agencies equal to 100,000 rubles.

The fact that the dollar exchange rate stays constant on the exchange for two months confirmed that the Belarussian ruble had stabilized, Bogdankevich said.

He believed that the making the ruble the sole legal tender in Belarus, tighter control over the budgetary and monetary-and-crediting policy and mutual understanding on the monetary policy between the government and the national bank were the factors contributing to the stabilization.

Bogdankevich said that the tight financing policy had kept the printing press idle for two months even though an issuance of 370 billion rubles had been planned for the first quarter of the year.

Hryb on President-Parliament Conflicts

954F1639A Minsk NARODNAYA HAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 95 p 1

[Interview with Myacheslaw Hryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, by INTERFAX correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich; place and date not given: "Parliament Should Not 'Rush Into the Attack,' Reacting Thus to Each Critical Speech of the President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zenkovich] Myacheslaw Ivanavich! Having sufficiently substantive grounds and great opportunities for starting a conflict with the president, the Supreme Soviet is nonetheless not doing so. What is the explanation for this phenomenon: an incapacity for "hitting back" or an unwillingness?

[Hryb] A perfectly efficient Supreme Soviet, which within the framework of the current constitution can adopt prudent decisions, is functioning in the country. Parliament is not afraid of anyone or anything. But this does not mean that the Supreme Soviet should respond to each critical attack on it with shouting and uproar. It makes no difference that the criticism is being heard not only from the street but from the president also. What, for example, is meant by his fabrications: It is alleged that 90 percent of the deputies are guilty of corruption. This charge is abstract. Members of parliament are, in turn, accusing the Office of the President of corruption.

The Supreme Soviet's approach consists of avoiding confrontation, not allowing it a chance to emerge, and not allowing the people or political parties to be dragged into a senseless struggle. What do we gain from confrontation? Nothing. This would only exacerbate the situation in the republic and contribute to even greater, more profound collapse.

Individual anti-president pronouncements of a number of deputies cannot be seen as the common, united position of the Supreme Soviet, just as criticism by the president of certain decisions of parliament cannot be seen as attacks on the country's supreme legislative body as a whole.

Both the president and parliament may make mistakes in work. It is necessary to call attention to them in good time and to rectify them. This is an entirely normal process! Constructive mutual criticism contributes to the revelation of many shortcomings.

It needs to be considered also that the president and parliament are taking the first steps in their interaction. The institution of the presidency was introduced quite recently, and the emergence of some problems between the two branches of power is inevitable. This is called "meshing." Besides, our president is young, and his team is young, more fervent....

I do not believe that parliament should "rush into the attack," reacting thus to each critical speech of the president. Especially since there could perfectly well be a provocation behind this.

Our purpose is to afford the deputies an opportunity to complete the prescribed term calmly, without getting the jitters, and to yield their seats to the new parliament. Without altercations, without noise, without war.

And, generally, the strength and wisdom of any parliament and any national leader is that, having made a mistake, he is not afraid to rectify it. Such qualities were displayed by our corps of deputies when the Law on the Supreme Soviet was adopted, when, on the recommendations of the president, a number of revisions to the "new-baked" document was promptly made.

[Zenkovich] President A. Lukashenka and L. Sinitsyn, his chief of staff, are criticizing the Supreme Soviet for fixing 14 May as the date of the parliamentary elections, which means a two-month extension of the authority of the present corps of deputies over and above the term determined in the constitution. What do you think, are the complaints of the head of state fair?

[Hryb] No, parliament's viewpoint does not coincide with that of the president. Parliament has not, contrary to A. Lukashenka's opinion, violated the constitution.

According to the constitution, the term of the Supreme Soviet is five years. Its authority may be relinquished early as a result of the adoption by two-thirds vote of the corresponding decree. The basic law determines also that the "old" Supreme Soviet shall preserve its authority until the opening of the first sitting of the new corps of deputies. Whence the conclusion that the term of the present Supreme Soviet, as also that of the newly elected parliament, should start as of the time of the first sitting. It is in this way that the term of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet is defined.

The elections of deputies of the 12th Supreme Soviet were held in March 1990. Its first sitting took place on 15 May, and the authority of the deputies was confirmed on 16 May of that year.

The basic law determines also that the elections of the new Supreme Soviet shall be scheduled no later than three months prior to the conclusion of the term of the "old" parliament. As we know, the date of the elections—14 May—was determined back on 23 December 1994.

Thus according to the constitution, there are absolutely no grounds for speaking of the conclusion of parliament's term in March 1995.

[Zenkovich] What was the reason for parliament's decision to ban the entry into the Supreme Soviet meeting hall of persons carrying weapons?

[Hryb] Many civilized states have such rules. A great intensity of passions and arguments between individual deputies and factions frequently arise in the course of parliamentary debate. It happens that things reach the point of insults, physical insults even. Such an incident occurred in our Supreme Soviet, when, in response to a verbal insult, B. Savitskiy, head of the Commission for the Environment and the Rational Use of Natural Resources, gave Deputy L. Borshchevskiy a slap in the face.

Things happen.... It was good that things did not at that time go as far as a showdown with pistols. And, generally, why bring weapons into parliament? All arguments should be settled by way of dialogue and civilized debate.

Not only the deputies but also the security personnel of various politicians pass through the Supreme Soviet meeting hall carrying weapons. This is dangerous also.

There should be a procedure whereby, upon entering parliament, persons carrying weapons hand them over for custody to the building's security service and can pick them up as they leave the meeting hall.

I consider this an essential rule. I have never brought weapons to parliament. Nor has the president, as far as I know. But far from all adhere to this rule.

[Zenkovich] How do you view the idea of sittings of parliament not being held after the official date of the start of the nomination of candidates for deputy—5 March? After all, many of the present members of parliament will try to take advantage of the Supreme Soviet's microphones to make public their ideas in order, making use of this extra platform, to obtain advantages over other candidates for deputy and to win the impending elections.

[Hryb] There is a problem here, of course. Perhaps this is what we will do. We will take our bearings as events progress.

But it needs to be considered that many of the present leaders, myself, for example, will be running for the new Supreme Soviet also. Will this mean that as an official—the head of parliament—I cannot, if necessary, appear on television or in the press? Would there then be charges that I was using my official position for electioneering?

Going by this logic, what would we have to do, stop all state activity altogether? This would clearly be wrong.

There are very many unsolved questions in our country. And if plenary sittings of the Supreme Soviet are terminated, their solution will be postponed for another year, at a minimum. This amount of time is needed for "meshing" the new corps of deputies in order to establish the normal law-making process.

When microphones are installed in the aisles between the rows of deputies' chairs, they attract many members of parliament: There is an opportunity to "play to the gallery." But if the hall is refitted, each chair being furnished with a microphone, an entirely different situation arises. Visiting Minsk, I. Rybkin, speaker of the State Duma of Russia, told me that as a result of this reconstruction of the meeting hall of the Russian parliament the number of those wishing to speak has diminished twofold on average.

[Zenkovich] The Belarus People's Front opposition is making a very negative assessment of the government decree commissioning without parliament's ratification the package of Belarusian-Russian agreements concluded in Minsk on 5 January. Specifically, Z. Poznyak sees the fact of the transfer to the Russian side for use for 25 years of facilities that are strategically important for Russia—the missile-attack early warning station in Gantsevichi and the communications center in the city of Vileyka for the command and control of the Russian submarine fleet—as a violation of the Russian-Belarusian agreements officially approved by the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, according to which the Russian troops stationed in the republic are to be withdrawn from our territory in 1995.

[Hryb] This problem was carefully studied by a legal council that was set up. Having conferred with independent lawyers, it was concluded that of the entire block of documents signed in January, three were to be unfailingly ratified by the Supreme Soviet: the agreement on a customs union and also documents on the use of the two military facilities.

The government was clearly in haste in commissioning them.

[Zenkovich] What do you think, will not the Cabinet of Ministers' mistake entail the question of Prime Minister M. Chigir's resignation being raised?

[Hryb] The government has been operating for a short time as yet, and I do not believe that the question of its resignation should be posed so soon.

We need to discuss in parliament the question of whether changes are to be made to the current law on the presence of Russian troops on the territory of Belarus or whether the intergovernmental agreements are to be brought into line with it.

[Zenkovich] You allow of the possibility of an extension of the presence of Russian troops in Belarus?

[Hryb] It is hard to allow of this. Although anything is possible.... It is essential, in any event, to consider everything thoroughly, having weighed all possible scenarios: what we would lose, what we would gain.

Generally, I am not a supporter of the conclusion of long-term accords. It is hard now to imagine the kind of situation that will have taken shape in 25 years' time. It is sufficient, in my view, to conclude a treaty for a term of five years or a year, with the condition that, there having been no complaints from either party, the treaty is automatically prolonged for another year.

[Zenkovich] Myacheslaw Ivanavich! There was a report in the press that I. Titenkov, business manager of the president, demanded of parliament a rental payment of

R5 billion a year for the maintenance of the premises in Government House. Is this true?

[Hryb] Yes, it is. I do not know how we will get out of this situation.

The point being that parliament is a purely publicly funded organization. If we pay the president's Administrative Department, the funds will have to be taken, one way or another, from the state budget. Money would be transferred from one pocket to another of the same coat of one owner—the state.

[Zenkovich] But in the event that the said $5 billion are not paid, will it not be the case that on arriving at work one fine day the deputies will see locks on the doors of the Supreme Soviet meeting hall?

[Hryb] Anything could happen. We would then put the benches in Independence Square and conduct the sittings there. Not so bad. We would vote by show of hands, not by the electronic system. I see no tragedy in this.

No Parties Register To Participate in Elections

LD1103211395 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the election measures schedule worked out by the Central Election Commission, the deadline set for registration of election blocs expired on 9 March. As a RID agency correspondent learned from Central Election Commission Secretary Ivan Likhach, the leaderships of none of the expected blocs has applied for official registration.

As is known, among the Belarusian parties there were plans to have three such political associations: A bloc of democratic parties, led by the Belarusian Popular Front, which would also include the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly, the Christian Democratic Union, the National Democratic Party and the Peasant Party; a Civil Accord bloc, containing the Party of Popular Accord, the United Democratic Party and the Civil Party; a bloc of Left parties, the creation of which was attempted by the Party of Communists, the Republican Party of Labor and Justice, the Agrarian Party, and the Socialist Party.

The fact that not a single election bloc has received legal registration at the Central Election Commission for their further activities proves that politicians have failed to overcome internal and interparty differences regarding division of constituencies and nomination of joint candidates. The registration of Civil Accord was made impossible because the Civil Party, which belongs to it, was not registered at the time when lists of political and public organizations allowed to participate in the elections were made.

Moldova

Zhirinovskiy Opposes Moldova, Other CIS States Joining UN, Europe

AU1103164295 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 9/3/1995—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a renowned nationalistic Russian leader and chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, has spoken against the membership of Russia and other former Soviet republics in the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

He said to INFOTAG he does not care if Moldova will be accepted to the Council of Europe before Russia or other CIS states.

"This is a phony organization established by the Masonic lodge to form their own World Government to rule the mankind to the benefit of the West. They wish to have an eternal banquet in Europe, with Siberia and Eastern Europe working on them. This an age-long Masonic idea," Zhirinovskiy said.

He expressed confidence that there will be a change of leadership in Russia, and the new leaders will never admit the Masonic scenario. He baldly stated that his main rivals in the forthcoming presidential elections are communists (Gennadiy Zyuganov) and democrats (Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yegor Gaydar, Boris Fedorov). Among his other potential competitors he named Aleksandr Lebed, Commander of the Russian 14th Army.

When asked about his attitude towards Lebed, Zhirinivskiy said "it is negative. Lebed is a stooge of the democrats whose aim is to ruin everything possible in the country."

The Liberal Party leader said he is against the membership of the former Soviet republics not only in the Council of Europe but also in the United Nations.

"We must quit the United Nations and found our own organization: the Union of Eastern European States, which is to be based on bilateral relationship," he said.

Lebed: Armed Men Leaving To Help Zhirinovskiy

AU1103193495 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2033 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 10/3/1995—General Aleksandr Lebed, 14th Army commander, alleged that Tiraspol's special battalion Dniester is involved in political controversies in Moscow. General Lebed and [Tiraspol Garrison Commander] Colonel Mikhail Bergman stated yesterday on ASKET cable TV that soldiers of the Dniester Battalion have been leaving for Moscow where they are put at the disposal of Zhirinovskiy and Barkashov. Sources from Tiraspol told BASA that the Dniester Battalion soldiers are traveling clothed as civilians and carrying weapons and ammunition. The same source reported that 50 mortars manufactured at the Kirov plant in Tiraspol were shipped to Moscow. Also yesterday the Dniester television broadcast a message in which Dniester leader Igor Smirnov requested Philip Hahn, head of the OSCE mission to Moldova to help continue the talks on the settlement of the Dniester conflict and to avoid provocations on behalf of the Moldovan and Latvian security ministries. Smirnov said that these ministries are forging a plan of seizure and transportation of Vadim Shevtsov and Nikolai Matveyev, both members of the Tiraspol government, to the Baltic states.

Spokesman Denies Dniester Militants Heading for Moscow

LD1003204495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We are examining the situation in Moscow following the sensational statement by Tiraspol commandant Mikhail Bergman about the transfer to Moscow, the alleged transfer to Moscow, of fighters from the Dniester region. Here are more details from Moscow and Tiraspol.

[Reporter Sergey Barabanov] Many mass media have quoted the interview which Col Bergman, the commandant of the Tiraspol garrison of Russia's 14th Army, gave to the Ekho Moskvy radio station. We recall that the colonel-general is referring to a group of armed people who are allegedly heading for Moscow from the Dniester region.

[Mikhail Bergman, military commandant of the Tiraspol garrison] We have been receiving information for a month now that individuals who came here with Gen Shevtsov and Gen Matveyev, former OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] personnel, former KGB personnel, who arrived here from the Baltic states - and there are more than 400 people here - are now heading for Moscow. They are people who kill in Moscow, equipped with Kalashnikov automatic rifles and Makarov pistols and have ammunition between four people and F-1 grenades between four. They have all-union passports, issued in different names, instructions about their mission and certification as Interior Ministry personnel. I realized from talking to several of them that they are going to Barkashov and some of them to Zhirinovskiy. I don't know what may happen in Moscow now, but I can say one thing for sure, that each person I spoke to said that from 18-20 March something is bound to happen.

[Barabanov] It was not difficult to predict the reaction of representatives of the Tiraspol authorities.

[Oleg Gudymo, deputy minister of security of the Moldavian Dniester Republic] As for such a group heading for Moscow, armed and former OMON staff, several hundred people it was said, it is all a deliberate lie, not a single person has set off there, there can be no question of any armed groups. I think this is all a typical political provocation.

[Barabanov] The near future will answer the question of how accurate the commander's version is. However, another issue has become clear. Confrontation is worsening between the 14th Army command and the Dniester authorities. This will certainly not help to strengthen stability on the banks of the Dniester, especially ahead of elections to the local authorities and the proposed withdrawal of the 14th Army.

[Reporter Maryana Maksimova] Throughout yesterday Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] staff checked the sensational report by the 14th Army commander about the alleged departure for Moscow of Dniester fighters. This information was refuted officially at the Lyubyanka headquarters today.

[Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the FCS public relations center] In this case the issue is that representatives of the Dniester Republic are arriving in Moscow to take part in the Russian People's Congress, a congress which will discuss the problems of the Russian-speaking population on the territory of the former Soviet republics.

[Maksimova] The congress is due to take place in Moscow from 18-20 March, the dates on which alleged disorder is to take place in the capital, the Lyubyanka notes. According to FCS information, some of the Dniester deputies to the congress have already arrived in Moscow while some are still en route, but all without exception have been searched for weapons and documents. No weapons were found and all documentation is in order.

[Mikhaylov] We see no serious threat in this situation connected with possible coups or violence on the territory of Moscow or Moscow Region.

[Maksimova] The FCS has been more concerned recently about the flood of phone-calls they have received warning about the alleged preparation of explosions. It has been added to now by the unfounded statements of certain politicians about coups being prepared. The FCS think that politicians are making these statements to remind people of their existence before the elections.

Official Comments on Transdniester 'Republic'

LD1003204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, Mar 10 (Interfax)—Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic, said that the Transdniestrian issue could not be resolved along the Gagauzia line. He told Interfax that the situation in Transdniestria was quite different and the Gagauzian recipe would not work.

He explained that Transdniestria had become a state in its own right, the 1992 conflict had aggravated the situation and different ways had to be sought to resolve the problem.

In particular, Tiraspol wants to maintain the existing Moldovan borders and to negotiate the internal structure of the country. The local leaders believe that Transdniestria must have a special status and local self-government, proposed by Chisinau, would not be a viable solution.

Marakutsa emphasized that Tiraspol supports any solution of the Gagauz issue that meets the aspiration of the Gagauz people and contributed to peace and accord in the region.

Observers Note 'Violations' in Gagauz Ballot

AU1003165195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 9/3/1995—Observers from the Moldovan Office of the U.S.-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) have revealed a series of violations committed during the last Sunday's Gagauz boundary referendum, INFOTAG was told by Igor Munteanu, IFES Office deputy director.

IFES representatives were present in localities in the Ciadar-Lunga and Basarabeasca areas, and revealed several common faults.

Thus, in many villages people took part in voting having no passports with them. Many polling stations had no national flag of the Republic of Moldova, and posters on the walls contained propaganda in favour of the present-day unrecognized Gagauz Republic, not in favour of Gagauz-Yeri territorial entity. Volunteer lobbyists persuaded people to vote for the self-styled republic.

According to Munteanu, there were plain-clothed armed people in the village of Kiriet-Lunga who pretended they were local militiamen. Polling stations in Avdarma had transparent polling booths, and in Ferapontievka, a village having Ukrainian-dominant population, pressure was put on voters.

"When voters were given ballot papers, they were asked to write 'Yes' in the register of issue, and many people thus got an impression they were supposed to draw a circle around 'Yes' word in their ballot papers. Besides, many voters filled in their papers on both sides, in Romanian and in Russian, which signifies such papers must be considered null and void. However, they were considered valid, which is a gross violation of the voting procedure," Munteanu pointed out.

He has regarded as "an attempted provocation" the information broadcasted on Sunday that a polling station was wrecked by the Popular Front fighters in the village of Bolshaya Keselia. "We have visited the station and saw that nothing of the kind happened there," he stressed.

The IFES Office will prepare a detailed report on the Gagauz referendum, Igor Munteanu said.

Snegur Intends To Cut Government Staff Expenditures

LD0903151295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau March 9 TASS—President of Moldova Mircea Snegur is seriously worried about the financial and economic situation prevailing in the country and intends to cut expenditures on maintaining government staff, using the funds for social needs, Chisinau's influential daily newspaper "TELEGRAPH" reported today.

The paper emphasised that the country with a population of four million owes equivalent of about eight million U.S. dollars to employees of the budgetary sphere as wages. At the same time, the budget deficit of the social fund has already exceeded 10 million dollars.

Non-payment of salaries and pensions is quite common in Moldova. Under conditions of the economic crisis, the government is forced to conduct a tough financial policy within the framework of the memorandum signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1993. The Cabinet of Ministers has rejected the practice of raising the minimum salary, since such recounting will only increase the gap between categories of employees receiving highest and lowest salaries.

Cabinet To Fulfill 'Realistic' Trade Union Demands

AU1103164395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 9/3/1995—The Moldovan Government has agreed to fulfill 5 demands of the National Federation of Independent Trade Unions, which have been considered realistic, Deputy Prime Minister Ion Gutu said at a press conference today.

The press conference was dedicated to a protocol signed on March 6 by the government, the federation and employers' organizations. The document reflects the results of negotiations caused by the trade unions' intention to organize a nationwide protest action against aggravating socio-economic state of the population.

The five demands included: 1) to revise price policy, fiscal and investment policy in favour of domestic producers, and to adopt a programme for creating more jobs and prevent unemployment; 2) to settle salary, pension, stipend and allowance arrears; 3) to fix a higher minimal monthly salary and to indexate people's monetary incomes depending on the rate of inflation; 4) to provide for first- priority replenishment (beginning from March 1) of the Salary Fund and timely repayment of salaries and wages; 5) to undertake undelayed measures to indexate monetary deposits of pensioners and invalids in the savings bank.

The government has promised to refund salary arrears in the budget-financed sphere (25.2 million lei) before March 25. In the first Quarter of 1995, the government is planning to repay 85 million out of 123 million lei of wages arrears allowed by the economic agents belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Moldovan trade unions have decided to postpone a nationwide action, which was scheduled on March 18 in protest against aggravating socio-economic conditions of the population, Ion Godonoga, Chairman of the National Federation of Independent Trade Unions, said at the press conference today.

This decision has been fixed in the protocol signed between the government, trade unions and employers on March 6. The document, however, reads that the trade unions reserve a right to organize the action at a later date, should the government fail to fulfill their demands.

Ion Godonoga said the trade unions place a particular emphasis on repaying salary, pension, etc. arrears.

Deputy Prime Minister Ion Gutu has pointed out the government's two recent decisions pertaining to assistance to the needy and indexation of the deposits of pensioners and invalids. Their implementation shall require additional 92 million lei during 1995.

Ion Gutu also reported that the government signed a decree on a 20 percent reduction of tariffs for gas, electricity and heat energy for production enterprises.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Receives Czech Foreign Minister

LD1003182495 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Czech Foreign Minister Jozef Zieleniec arrived in Almaty on an official visit yesterday evening. Today Zieleniec was received by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

They had a conversation about the prospects for developing trade and economic relations, the creation of new joint ventures, the development of a joint program on cooperation in the sphere of oil and gas, and expanding partnership in the sphere of transport and vehicle manufacture. Specific steps were outlined for implementing these projects. International issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

[Begin Zieleniec recording in Czech with superimposed Russian translation] I feel great satisfaction at having the opportunity to talk to President Nazarbayev. We have discussed many foreign policy issues, in particular, the cooperation between our countries and the OSCE. Kazakhstan is an important political partner for us, because it is the guarantor of stability in the whole region. And at the same time Kazakhstan is a traditional economic partner for us. And we want to revive and continue this tradition. And I am very glad that President Nazarbayev feels it as much as we do. And therefore we have come to an agreement on specific steps for developing our economic cooperation. [end recording]

As the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers reported, today First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin received the Czech foreign minister. They discussed trade and economic cooperation, in particular the creation of joint ventures, developing an oil and gas program, and cooperation in the sphere of transport and vehicle manufacture. Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev and Minister of Trade and Industry Garri Shtoyik attended the meeting.

The same day the Czech foreign minister was received by Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev.

A ceremony to mark the opening of the Czech Republic's embassy in Kazakhstan also took place. It was said at the ceremony that this event is yet another step in strengthening and consolidating the businesslike and friendly relations between the two countries.

Kasymzhomart Tokayev stressed that the experience of such states as the Czech Republic in forming market mechanisms are of immense interest for us. In turn, Mr. Zieleniec noted that the Czech Republic's intention to broaden its comprehensive partnership with Kazakhstan is due to the mutual benefit and the understanding of Kazakhstan's stabilizing role, not only in the Central Asian region, but also on a larger scale.

Rudolf Slansky has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Kazakhstan.

A news conference was given for journalists on the results of today's meetings.

Court Rules 1994 Elections Unconstitutional

LD1003221195 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Report attributed to KAZTAG news agency]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has been learned from informed sources, today the Constitutional Court made a final decision on the case brought by Tatyana Kvitkovskaya. The court rejected the objections filed by the president and the chairman of the Supreme Council.

Thus the previous resolution of the court - which in fact admits that last year's elections to the Supreme Council were unconstitutional and that the mandates of the deputies elected are illegal - came into force on 6 March this year.

Parliament Begins Discussing Court Decision on Elections

LD1103152095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 11 (Interfax)—Kazakhstan's Parliament opened an extraordinary session Saturday [11 March].

On March 6, the republican Constitutional Court regarded as unconstitutional the method of counting votes and the definition of the boundaries of constituencies, accepted for parliamentary elections on March 7, 1994. This verdict makes parliament illegitimate and all its decisions invalid.

As the Constitutional Court repealed a protest from President Nazarbayev against the Court's ruling last night, the verdict is considered to be in effect.

The parliamentary session, which is being attended among others by Nazarbayev, is discussing the situation that has emerged in the country in the wake of the Constitutional Court's decision.

Nazarbayev Questions Ruling by Constitutional Court

LD1103153295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 11 (INTERFAX)—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has sent an official inquiry to the republic's Constitutional Court in order to receive explanations concerning legal consequences of the decision adopted by the court. He declared about this speaking in Kazakhstan's parliament Saturday [11 March].

Nazarbayev underlined that "the parliamentary crisis touches on the whole society." "Under the situation when the Supreme Soviet is illegitimate, its decision appear illegal and the government approved by the government is illegal as well," he said.

In Nazarbayev's words, he has done this "in order to overcome this parliamentary crisis not violating the Constitution." Nazarbayev believes that the Constitutional Court should explain its decision, "whether it means that the elections were non-constitutional or this decision concerns only one district where there were violations during the elections."

On March 6 Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court recognized that the methods of votes' calculation and of determination of electoral districts' borders during the parliamentary elections on March 7, 1994 contradicted to the Constitution. In accordance with this decision it appears that the parliament is illegitimate and all its decisions are lawless.

On Friday evening the Constitutional Court declined President Nursultan Nazarbayev's protest in which he expressed disagreement with the Court's decision. Due to this it is considered that the Court's decision is already in force.

Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court passed this sensational decision after, on March 6, it met the suit of the former candidate to the deputies Tatyana Kvyatkovskaya who was a candidate for the republican parliament last year but failed to collect necessary number of votes. The court recognized that creation of electoral districts unequal in number violates rights of the candidate to the deputies. In particular, Kvyatkovskaya asserted that there were about 90,000 electors in the district, in which she was put to the vote, and there were only 30,000 electors in the neighboring one. Consequently, she said, the principle of equal representation and of participation in the elections on equal grounds, as it is fixed in the Code on Elections, was violated.

Nazarbayev Announces Dissolution of Parliament [ITAR-TASS]

LD1103164395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty March 11 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev dissolved the parliament on Saturday [11 March] after unsuccessful attempts to resolve the gridlock with the Constitutional Court over the validity of the 1994 parliamentary elections.

Accepts Government's Resignation

LD1103165795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty March 11 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev dissolved the parliament on Saturday after unsuccessful attempts to resolve the gridlock with the Constitutional Court over the validity of the 1994 parliamentary elections.

The president said that new parliamentary elections will take place within the next two to three months.

Nazarbayev also accepted the resignation of the government which was formed by the dissolved parliament. However, he asked Akezhan Qazhygeldin to continue as prime minister.

The crisis which forced Nazarbayev to postpone his trip to Indonesia and Australia that was due to begin on March 16 broke out after ex-parliamentary candidate Tatiyana Kvyatkovskaya won a suit in the Constitutional Court on March 6, claiming that the parliamentary elections which were held in Kazakhstan on March 7, 1994 were rigged.

President Nazarbayev and parliament Chairman Abish Kekilbayev objected the court's verdict, which virtually questioned the legitimacy of the country's supreme legislative body of power.

However, on Friday the Constitutional Court confirmed its decision, thus basically stating the invalidity of the elections and the parliament itself.

Nazarbayev asked the Constitutional Court to specify its decision, particularly if it applies only to specific constituencies, or the whole parliament.

Lawmakers cut their trips to their constituencies short on Saturday to hold an emergency session of the parliament and work out a strategy of defence. They lashed out at the Constitutional Court, accusing it of all possible sins and particularly "of intentional attempts to undermine the constitutional system of the republic."

Prime Minster Reappointed

LD1103180695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1713 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldy Akhmetalimov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Almaty, 11 Mar—President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced today that parliament was being dissolved. [passage omitted]

Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that the decision of the Constitutional Court necessitated a review of the legislative acts adopted by parliament over the year which it had functioned. He also announced that the law on additional powers for the president and the heads of local administrations of the Republic, which was in force before the March 1994 elections, comes into force once again as of today. At the same time, the president noted in particular that "everything will be done in the country strictly on the basis of the Constitution and the laws."

The president also said that he had accepted the resignation of the present government formed by the parliament of Kazakhstan, which had lost its legitimacy. To prevent a vacuum of executive power, he reappointed Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhgeldin and instructed him to put forward proposals on the new government. In reply to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, the president stated that under his decree the present deputy prime ministers and the heads of power ministries and departments, the foreign ministry, and ministry of finance retained their portfolios in the new government.

Under a decree by the president, a commission has been set up to deal with deputies' job placement. It is headed by Vice President Yerik Asanbayev.

Militia Outside Parliament Building

LD1103193995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today the president of Kazakhstan announced the dissolution of the country's parliament. [passage omitted]

Our radio station has learned that despite the president's decision, the deputies intend to reconvene on 12 March. However, special purpose militia posts were placed outside the parliament building in Almaty today.

Nazarbayev on Constitutionality of Elections

LD1203101795 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today [11 March], a session of the republic's Supreme Council was held on the situation connected with the resolution of the Constitutional Court of 6 March this year, which deems unconstitutional the resolution of the Central Electoral Commission on the organization and the procedure for voting, on summing up the results of voting on the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council on 7 March last year.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev made a speech at the session.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] I lodged an objection against the Constitutional Court's decision, which is known to you. I think you have all read it. I specially asked that it be published and the text itself be shown on television. If you have read it, then laconically it says the same as the chairman, the representative of the Central Electoral Commission, and as some deputies have just said.

Yesterday the Constitutional Court overturned my objection and also the objection by the chairman of the Supreme Council. I will tell you directly and openly that its decision on 6 March was completely unexpected by me. You can say various things and make various conjectures, it is up to you. One must not destabilize the situation now. But they say that some deputies also interpret this in another way, and with such unanimity at rejecting the veto.

Yes, it happens that vetoes are rejected, and you also overruled the president last year. Although you overruled me, you did not implement what you wanted to do, because I vetoed it because of calculations, that we could not pay out what the state did not have. You rejected it. So, this is normal. It is legal and constitutional.

There is no sense in my commenting on the court's decision, you know its essence better than I do.

But before meeting you, naturally, all this time I have been working day and night, and thinking, and I know that you have been waiting for my opinion on this and will certainly ask me for it. What is the situation in our state?

As I said in my speech to the media on 8 March the situation is extraordinary both legally and politically. There has never been anything like this here before. That is why when lodging my objection I was guided not only by the intention to preserve the state and stability—this is my main policy, you know that. I have been conducting it, attempting to conduct it. But I was guided also by the intention to preserve the Supreme Council. However, today I would like to draw your attention to the situation in which this case was examined by the Constitutional Court. This is necessary so that we all approach an appraisal of the situation that has arisen self-critically and in a balanced manner.

The suit brought by citizen Kvitkovskaya could have been limited to the boundaries of Abylaykhanovskiy constituency only. Why was I calm? I was convinced that at most we would probably have to resolve the issue there. But events took quite an unexpected turn. The question arises—was the Constitutional Court's decision so unexpected? For the court proceedings did not begin yesterday or today. They lasted a whole year, including recesses. During this time nobody paid any serious attention to it. Neither did I or, of course, the Supreme Council. It has only been over the last few days that passions have been boiling. I remind you that it was in this hall, from this hall, that questions about the illegality of the elections first began to be asked. It was none other than Mr. Chernyshev who began a suit in the Constitutional Court about the unconstitutionality of the election code, which is directly related to the present day, and as a whole about the legitimacy of the elections. I think we all remember that. Although today Chernyshev speaks differently.

This is directly related to the present day, by raising the issue of the illegitimacy of the elections. Recently there were additional elections in four constituencies and again inside the walls of parliament there was talk that some deputies were elected legally, others illegally, that someone was supported by someone else. As a result, the issue of the legitimacy of the elections was raised within the framework of the political problems throughout the whole state. We need at least ourselves to learn to respect the Constitution and the laws of the country, then we will have the right to demand at the top of our voices and others will respect us.

It is unfortunate, but again in this hall the intention was publicly proclaimed to deal with the Constitutional Court and the Arbitration Court, and now here is a proposal to abolish this Constitutional Court. This was naturally considered by the public, and first and foremost, by the members of the court, as an attack on that holy of holies, the independence of judicial power.

There were even suspicions—and deputies went there as I know and said we will deal with you and tried to persuade them: All these days we have been consulting with the deputies and the leadership of the Supreme Council. The Constitutional Court must be influenced. They will have to be called in, as they say.

But then many of you would have reproached me for this as well, as happens frequently. We live in a society of suspicion about each another. The opinion would be formed that in Kazakhstan everything is settled, as before, by telephone, by the censuring of the chief, and from this everything would start again in the old way. That is why I have chosen the path that I had to choose as head of state, to follow the Constitution and not to pressurize either side. Maybe it is difficult for you to understand this today but with time we will all understand that in my place everyone would have had to have done the same.

In this hall just now is there really no one saying: Who is guilty? Let us have it out, where, who is doing this? We hear all of this.

The parliamentary crisis concerns the whole of society, nobody needs this today, at this stage. Those who think that this is just the Supreme Council's headache are mistaken. No, this is a state problem. It is my problem as president, as a citizen. For if the Supreme Council is illegitimate, then all its decisions that it has taken over the year are also illegitimate. The government and the government's decisions are illegitimate. That is why, taking into consideration the situation that has arisen in the state, I believe it is necessary for me to go to the Constitutional Court with an official query. This way is still left for me, that is all. In order to receive exhaustive explanations concerning the legal consequences of the decisions taken by the court, it is necessary in order—while not violating the Constitution—to try to get out of the parliamentary crisis that has arisen. I think I will do this in the very near future, today—this query.

I understand that this decision has been acute for you. It reflects on your fate, on the fate of the country. But I appeal to you, even in this complicated situation, to preserve your restraint, patience, and state maturity, not to shake the fragile balance that we have. Each of us must think not just about himself at such key moments. For my part I will do everything that depends on me in order to preserve our mutual understanding for the sake of the highest interests of the people and the state. I promise to act strictly according to the letter and spirit of our Constitution.

I confirm my deepest respect toward all the 177 deputies who were elected to the last Supreme Council. We must now, I think, wait for the answer to this query from the Constitutional Court, which we will ask not to rest but to give us an answer. Does this Constitutional Court resolution mean the unconstitutionality of the elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan or does it affect Abylaykhanovskiy constituency—i.e. the elections that took place on 7 March 1994, and also the unconstitutionality of the powers of the deputies elected to the Supreme Council? Here, this answer is not simple, the chairman must give a definition to it, to my query. I have this constitutional right, which is still left for me.

Before that, I think, there is no need to take any decisions in the Supreme Council. I have always said, in this hall and generally, that for Kazakhstan in our conditions today, when we are going through an acute period of crisis in the economy and the state, one authority is needed, with three branches. Certain deputies, when that same Supreme Council adopted the Constitution, argued that there are not three authorities in Kazakhstan, as if we were America or France. Here are three authorities for you. There are three branches of authority. The authority must be one. We must clearly define, clearly, without interpretations, what must the president do? What must the Supreme Council work on? I believe it should work on legislation, above all. What must the courts work on? We have created control by one body over another, but we did not create mutual control of one over another.

I think that in these days we have all started to look at the Constitution. Look at the rights I have, which you appeal to as guarantor of the Constitution.

The Constitutional Court—Article No. 95—is the supreme body of judicial authority for defending the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This is one thing. Any kind of interference in the activities—this is Article No. 101—any kind of interference in the activities of the court when it is administering justice is inadmissible and will be brought to account in accordance with the law.

Next, the judicial defense of the Constitution and guaranteeing its supremacy is the duty only of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which examines suits. This is Article 130, now Article 131. The Constitutional Court, by determining the unconstitutionality of laws and other acts, abolishes their validity throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

One thing is left, which I can say from everything that has been said. I will send this query today, officially to the Constitutional Court, and it must tell us, and that is it. In our future actions we will act according to the Constitution. [end recording]

Nazarbayev Holds News Conference

LD1203115195 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1732 GMT 11 Mar 95

[News conference by President Nursultan Nazarbayev with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic correspondents in Almaty—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nazarbayev] I want to make a statement before I answer your questions.

On 6 March the republic's Constitutional Court adopted a resolution on the case brought by citizen Tatyana Kvitkovskaya, which deemed that a number of the decisions of the Central Electoral Commission on organizational issues during the parliamentary elections held on 7 March 1994 were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Thus the results of the elections were placed in doubt as was the legitimacy of the powers of the Supreme Council deputies.

Taking into account the probability of a parliamentary crisis that would complicate the solution of the tasks of creating a legislative basis for the socioeconomic reforms we are carrying out and for the activities of the supreme bodies of state power, and in the interests of preserving stability in society and the state, on 8 March 1995 I, using my constitutional right, made a statement on republican television. The same day, in accordance with Article 131 of our Constitution, I filed an objection against the resolution of the Constitutional Court, i.e. my veto. I had the constitutional right to do this. While doing this, first and foremost I was following the aim of preserving stability, not only in the country as a whole and among the people but also as stability of power. On 9 March, the following day, the chairman of the Supreme Council also filed an objection against the Supreme Court's resolution. The objections suspended the validity of the Constitutional Court decision.

In accordance with Article 131 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which says that if the Constitutional Court confirms a resolution previously adopted by a majority of no less than two third of votes of the total number of judges it comes into force from the moment of its adoption. On 10 March 1995 the Constitutional Court rejected the filed objections, that is its resolution of 6 March came into effect from that moment.

In this connection on 11 March, today, I, as guarantor of the observation of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, went to the Constitutional Court with a query about the legal consequences of the resolution of 6 March 1995.

The next question: In connection with the fact that the Constitutional Court's resolution on the case brought by citizen Kvitkovskaya and adopted on 6 March had come into force, I asked for explanations on the following questions. First, does the Constitutional Court's resolution mean that the elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan held on 7 March 1994 were unconstitutional, and also the unconstitutionality of the powers of the deputies of the Supreme Court elected at that time? If the powers of the deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan are unconstitutional, who has the right to take decisions of a legislative character?

Next: Does the Constitutional Court's decision mean that the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted on 10 December 1993 by the parliament, which dissolved itself on the temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and to heads of local administrations is still in effect? Today the Constitutional Court, in its supplementary determination, which it gave after considering my query, gave its interpretation of the questions, which I put from which it follows that the powers of the deputies, of all deputies of the Supreme Council, are unconstitutional.

Thus the fact that the present parliament is unconstitutional received complete judicial confirmation.

From the moment this critical situation arose, I upheld and still uphold a principled stance, namely the strict and unwavering observation of the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It, our Constitution, says the following. First, the Constitutional Court is the supreme body of judicial power for protecting the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Second, judicial powers act on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan and has as its purpose the protection of rights and freedoms, and ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Third—I am reading out articles of the Constitution—any kind of interference in the activities of the court when administering justice is inadmissible and will be brought to account in accordance with the law. Fourth, a resolution of the Constitutional Court is final and cannot be appealed. This is all from our Constitution.

Following the decisions adopted by the Constitutional Court, today I have signed an edict on measures that arose out of the resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995. With this edict, in order to render assistance to deputies in finding employment, ensure the safety of the property of the Supreme Council, and solve other questions connected to the cessation of activities of the Supreme Council, a state commission has been created under the chairmanship of Vice President Yerik Asanbayev.

The unconstitutionality of the powers of the deputies of the Supreme Council means the absence of a parliament in the Republic of Kazakhstan. That is why the law on the temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administrations continues to be in force. This law was adopted on 10 December 1993 by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the 12th convocation.

The unconstitutionality of the powers of parliament means also the unconstitutionality of the powers of the present government, which was formed with the participation of the illegitimate Supreme Council. That is why the whole government resigned today, which has already been accepted by me.

Taking into consideration that we should not allow a vacuum of executive power in this very complicated turning point in the country, I, by edict, in accordance with the Constitution and the law on the temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administrations, have appointed Akezhan Magzhanovich Qazhygeldin prime minister and charged him within a week to introduce proposals for a new structure of the Cabinet of Ministers. Simultaneously, I appointed deputy prime ministers and ministers of internal affairs, foreign affairs, defense, and finance whom I appoint without them being proposed by the head of government.

Other tasks apart, the new government will have to revise the resolutions adopted by the former Cabinet of Ministers and give them legal force. I have to examine all the laws adopted by the former Supreme Council and bring them into force again by edict, in connection with my new powers.

In order to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the judicial system, the appointment of judges who were re-elected by parliament will be carried out by presidential edict.

As I have already said, the laws, adopted by the former Supreme Council, will be confirmed in the very near future by my edicts, which have the force of law.

In conclusion, I want to say that I hope that the parliamentarians will demonstrate restraint and understanding, and their deep civic responsibility for the destiny of the fatherland.

At their invitation today, I was in parliament. I made a speech and expressed my own point of view, the essence of which is the strict observation of the norms of our Constitution.

I want to call upon the citizens of Kazakhstan to preserve the spirit of tranquillity characteristic of our republic, and regard these events as the manifestation of the supremacy of the country's Constitution and laws, which are characteristic of democratic countries. As guarantor of the constitutional structure I will continue to use all my powers to observe the constitutional rights and freedom of citizens, and the basis of legality and law and order.

I appeal to you, respected representatives of the media, to objectively report what has happened, that for me, as head of state, nothing was left other than to act strictly in accordance with the letter of the law and Constitution of Kazakhstan.

This really is the fundamental case for the state, which we have never had before, moreover since constructive work began with this parliament at the end of last year. This Supreme Council confirmed a market budget for the country for this year. I, on 15 March, at the first session after the vacation, was going to make a speech on the problems of fighting crime and propose specific laws on this question, amendments to the criminal code that toughen the punishment of criminals, especially crimes against individuals, against people. But unfortunately what has happened has happened, and we, I think, must continue to observe the Constitution and law, and observing them, must solve all the questions that we will have. Thank you for your attention.

[Unidentified moderator] Vladimir Arogayev, please.

[Arogayev] Vladimir Arogayev, IZVESTIYA newspaper. Mr. President, you have not said anything about whether you intend to form a new parliament in the republic. Also, how long will the powers temporarily delegated to you last?

[Nazarbayev] In accordance with the corresponding articles of the constitutional law on elections, for two cases—if elections are pre-term or repeat, pre-term or repeat—they should be held within two-three months. The Constitutional Court deemed that this instance is neither one or the other. These will be extraordinary elections that are not envisaged in the law. Therefore, we will think.

The interesting fact is that on 12 December [1994] 107 parliament members out of 177—I have this letter with me, they all signed it—asked me not to touch the Constitution. Today, when I was speaking, they all unanimously said: Let us make amendments to the Constitution. You all remember those three questions that I put forward in December. Today it was said that these powers should be delegated to the president, because everything is at a standstill. The law on bankruptcy is still standing, the tax code is still standing—we needed this yesterday— the document on securities has not been adopted.

Today, I do not know, I heard that it—our parliament that has been illegitimate since 6 March, it is now considered—made an attempt to adopt laws suspending the law on the Constitutional Court, I think so, yes? I was told this. First, they cannot do this. Second, I have to sign such an edict. Only after this does the law come into effect. On the whole, I was told, they cancelled an article of the Constitution regarding the Constitutional Court. Naturally, when I sent my query in the evening [10 March] I hoped that the Constitutional Court would take it into consideration and say that its decision concerns only Abylaykhanskiy constituency, and that the powers of the other deputies are not involved. But the Constitutional Court found out that it had already been abolished in the most unconstitutional way. The Constitutional Court could examine this and again adopt the decision that this was unconstitutional and they had no right to do this.

[Denisov] Denisov, official television news. Mr. President, do you not think that your edict is the beginning of dictatorial power in our republic?

[Nazarbayev] You know, I have already heard about this once, but nothing like this happened. I want to tell you, this is neither in my wishes or in my character. I just very much regret what has happened. I can give you my word, if you like, that nothing of that kind will take place. There is a Constitution in the state, there are laws in the state, and they will be fully observed. Especially as regards the rights of people, our citizens.

[Unidentified correspondent, in Kazakh] Nursultan Abishevich, today we attended a session of the Supreme Council. During the session some deputies voiced the opinion that we are involved in a political crisis. Is this right?

[Nazarbayev, in Kazakh] Not a political crisis. There is a crisis of the Supreme Council. There is the state. There is the president. There is the government. There are efficient laws. The president has the right to adopt laws. Therefore there is no crisis. Bearing this in mind, we will do our job and make every effort to improve the situation in the country.

[Nazarbayev, in Russian] I ask you to pose any questions that might interest you.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is a general question from LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. What further steps do you forecast parliament taking, in what logical way can mutual relations between parliament and executive power develop now, and what measures in your opinion might have to be taken to maintain stability in the republic?

[Nazarbayev] Well, first of all, parliament is illegitimate and, unfortunately, the whole of the Supreme Council and all the deputies are illegitimate, having no authority or rights. In my edict today I set up a commission to find employment for these deputies, and I think that I will deal with this in a very thorough manner and I will take care of each person. Therefore, tomorrow morning, Vice President Asanbayev will announce my decisions, and we will, in accordance with the labor code, give the legally required, so to speak, benefits, and on this we can say that all the parliamentarians, after this two month break, must get on with their own affairs. I will take further steps, naturally, to re-establish a normal, legal parliament, and all other steps must be considered in more detail, and I will inform you about them without fail.

[Moderator, with question translated from English] The situation that has now arisen is on the whole extraordinary. An extraordinary government will probably be appointed and maybe you will accept the government's resignation?

[Nazarbayev] There will be no resignation of parliament, because parliament has been deemed unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court and no longer exists today.

[Moderator, with question translated from French] Mark Brunner, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, his only question. It can be conclusively said: Parliament no longer exists?

[Nazarbayev] Yes, thank you.

[Moderator] Thank you very much.

Chief Justice on Parliament Dissolution

LD1203170895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1644 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty March 12 TASS—Kazakhstan's Chief Justice Murat Baymakhanov blamed the disbandment of the parliament on the failure to ensure the equality of the citizens' rights during the March 1994 elections.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Sunday [12 March], Baymakhanov, who is chairman of the Kazakh Constitutional Court, said that the constituencies were established by the Central Electoral Commission on the basis of the administrative and territorial principle with a big difference in the number of voters, ranging from 16,000 to over 100,000.

In addition, every voter in a one-seat constituency was allowed, in violation of the Constitution, by the electoral commission to vote as many times on the same ballot as was the number of candidates that appeared on it, he said. As a result, the number of votes exceeded the actual number of voters.

The parliament was dissolved on Saturday by President Nursultan Nazarbayev after unsuccessful attempts to resolve the gridlock with the Constitutional Court over the validity of the 1994 parliamentary elections.

The president announced that the parliament ceased its existence as of March 6, 1995 when the Constitutional Court first delivered its verdict.

Speaking at a news conference, Nazarbayev said that new parliamentary elections will take place within the next two to three months.

Pending the election of a new parliament, all constitutory regulations will be adopted by the president.

The announcement was made after the Constitutional Court confirmed on Saturday, for the third time, its earlier ruling that elections were held in violation of the Constitution.

Nazarbayev stressed that the laws adopted by the parliament over the past year will have to be reviewed and revived the law on additional powers of the president and the heads of regional administrations which was in effect before the March 1994 elections. "Everything will be done in strict conformity with the Constitution and the law of the country," he added.

The president also accepted the resignation of the government which was formed by the dissolved parliament. However, he asked Akezhan Qazhygeldin to continue as prime minister and submit his proposals on a new line-up of the government.

The vice-premiers, the defence and interior ministers, the counterintelligence chief, the finance minister and the foreign minister were also asked to stay.

The president issued a decree to set up a special commission to employ the sacked deputies. The commission will be headed by Vice-President Yerik Asanbayev.

The crisis which forced Nazarbayev to postpone his trip to Indonesia and Australia that was due to begin on March 16 broke out after ex-parliamentary candidate Tatyana Kvitkovskaya won a suit in the Constitutional Court on March 6, claiming that the parliamentary elections which were held in Kazakhstan on March 7, 1994 were rigged.

President Nazarbayev and Parliament Chairman Abish Kekilbayev objected the court's verdict, which virtually questioned the legitimacy of the country's supreme legislative body of power.

However, on Friday the Constitutional Court confirmed its decision, thus basically stating the invalidity of the elections and the parliament itself.

Semipalatinsk Radiation Pollution Problems

95WN0109A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Mar 95 p 9

[Article by Beket Aubakirov: "The Semipalatinsk Test Range: 'Welcome or...': In Kazakhstan's Kurchatov, They Have No Time for Radiation Danger"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the Semipalatinsk Test Range is closed, its fate continues to interest both scientists and the broad public. Specialists of the international atomic energy commission [IAEA—International Atomic Energy Agency] did not ignore it during their recent visit either. They even asked the owners: Is it really impossible to organize things so that the local population does not, out of ignorance, get into sectors contaminated by radiation? Or does the United Nations absolutely need to intervene to do this?

The test range used to be a closed zone occupying 18,000 square kilometers of steppe pastureland. Today 88 percent of this area has been declared radiation safe, another 8 percent of the territory requires special inspection, and almost 720 square kilometers are so contaminated that they are considered inappropriate for human use. Ecologists call the "atomic lake" which formed as a result of testing the hydrogen bomb especially dangerous. Radiation here is 3,000-5,000 microroentgens an hour.

When the test range was considered the personal fiefdom of the military, things were strictly controlled: access to the "dirty" sections was prohibited, the sections were enclosed by barbed wire, and warning signs were installed. But as soon as the military closed down their operation and returned to Russia, the test range and the city of Kurchatov which is adjacent to it were transferred to the National Nuclear Center of Kazakhstan, and everything quickly fell into neglect. Inadequate financing and the mass exodus of specialists who followed the military only aggravated the situation. Last winter, for example, people there were thinking more of simple survival rather than scientific research. In Kurchatov apartments were heated by "ancient primus stoves."

No one even thought about setting up special rules for using the contaminated territories, although the National Nuclear Center and the Institute of Radiation Safety were required to perform this job within a month's time. That was not their main concern, slightly more important problems existed; for example, preserving the unique bench reactors, of which the test range has three.

"Trips to the test range and meetings with the local population confirmed the worst dangers," reported Viktor Slavgorodskiy, the chief of the radioecology administration of the Ministry of Eco-Bioresources. "Many people have no concept of radiation safety. People who work in territories which used to be off-limits are unfamiliar with the location of the sections which are contaminated with radionuclides and do not know what steps should be taken if they happen to find themselves in a section with a high level of radiation. As a result, they not only destroy their health by pasturing livestock there and procuring hay in improper places, but even supply milk and meat of questionable quality to the city's residents."

In the days when people were fighting to have the test range closed, savage accusations were made against the totalitarian system. Now there is no longer anyone to blame and it is time to get down to business: prepare maps of radiation contamination, fence in especially dangerous sections, and work up instructions regulating procedures for agricultural work in the region. The Semipalatinsk Oblast Administration prepared an appropriate plan, but it is not being executed. It is the chronic Soviet disease: we work up fine plans, make a mess of them, and then immediately work up even finer ones.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Leaves for OED Summit in Islamabad

LD1303062695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 13 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek March 13 TASS—Kyrgyzstan is seeking a deeper economic integration with other countries of the Asian continent. President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzastan today left for Pakistan to take part in the meeting of the heads of state and government of the member-countries of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation [OED].

In Islamabad, Kyrgyzstan's leader is due to sign three documents within the framework of economic cooperation organisation, including on his republic's on participation in the establishment and activity of a regional bank and a shipping company.

From Pakistan, the president of Kyrgyzstan is due to fly to Iran. Askar Akayev is due to begin an official visit to Iran on March 16. At the invitation from Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, Askar Akayev will attend the opening ceremony on a railroad, one of the branches of which will link Iran's northern border with the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas. The railroad in question will give central Asian countries access to the world ocean via Turkmenistan.

Repeat Elections Postponed Until 29 Apr

LD0803193095 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Election Commission in Kyrgyzstan announces that under Article 49 of the law on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Central Election Commission announced earlier that repeat elections of deputies would be held in six constituencies on 23 April 1995.

However, because the Orthodox Easter religious holiday falls on 23 April, the Central Election Commission has postponed the date of the repeat elections until Saturday, 29 April 1995, in the following constituencies:
To the Legislative Assembly:
—in Alamudin Constituency No. 32;
—in Chuy Constituency No. 34.
To the Assembly of People's Representatives:
—in Tonsky Constituency No. 16;
—Moskowsky Constituency No. 50;
—Tokmok Constituency No. 58;
—Shabdan Constituency No. 59.

The principal measures to prepare and conduct the elections of deputies to the Legislative Assembly and Assembly of People's Representatives of the Supreme Council will be held in these constituencies in accordance with the earlier calendar plan, which was [word indistinct] by the Central Election Commission.

In addition, in line with this plan the nomination of candidates for the post of deputies to both chambers of the parliament began on 6 February in the above constituencies. It will continue until 20 of March, inclusive, while from 22 to 24 March candidates will be registered.

In the second round of elections on 19 February 1995, violations were committed in some polling stations in Akbura Constituency No. 33 in Osh Region for elections of deputies to the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council. [passage indistinct]

Tajikistan

President Departs Copenhagen for Pakistan

LD1303095995 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the world summit meeting of heads of states and countries for social development in Copenhagen, President Imomali Rakhmanov flew to Pakistan.

UN Observers Meet Tajik Government, Opposition

LD1203103295 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0635 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning [11 March], a meeting took place at the central headquarters of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan between Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, and a delegation from the joint cease-fire supervisory commission under the leadership of Hasan Abbas, a UN general who had come to Taloqan [the Islamic Movement's base in northern Afghanistan].

At the meeting with Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the people's Jihad movement, the following were present: General Hasan Abbas and his deputies Major Thomas [name indistinct] and Major Angel Dmitriyev.

Representing the Tajik Government were Colonel 'Aziz Ruziyev, the head of the governmental delegation, Colonel Juraqul Boboyev of the security forces, Lieutenant Colonel Mansur Mirzayev of the Tajik Defense Ministry, and Hamrohkhon Zaripov, the head of the Tajik Foreign Ministry staff.

From the opposition were Muzaffar Rahmon, the leader of the delegates and his deputy Jaloliddin Mahmud.

Haji Abdul Ghaffor Khudoydod, the chairman of the court of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, Professor

Mirbobo Mirrahim, the chairman of the political committee of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, Mavlavi Abdul Ghaffor Burhonzoda, the chairman of the cultural committee of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, and Muhammad Navid also took part in this meeting.

The UN observer delegates then held a news conference for journalists.

Premier Karimov on Cooperation With Russia

MM1303113895 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov by Alisher Niyazov in Dushanbe; date not given: "The Ruble Will Stay On in the Pamirs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government delegation headed by Premier Dzhamshed Karimov was quite upbeat on its return from Moscow to Dushanbe. While in the Russian capital, it signed an intergovernmental agreement on the deepening of economic cooperation between the two countries and—and this is the main point—it signed a protocol on the continued circulation of the Russian ruble on Tajikistan's territory.

"A breakthrough as regards the creation of a common market between Tajikistan and Russia"—this is how the trip's results have been appraised by representatives of the republic's industrial circles. In any event, Tajikistan will remain within the ruble area for another year, and this will give a badly needed breather to a country whose GNP, according to foreign economists, is rapidly dropping to the level of the GNP of Mozambique, the world's poorest country. On his return from Moscow, Dzhamshed Karimov replied to PRAVDA correspondent's questions.

[Karimov] The document's full title is "Agreement on Deepening Economic Cooperation and Developing Integrational Ties Between Tajikistan and Russia." We are talking about the free movement of goods, capital, and labor between our countries. In this context, we signed a protocol at the level of governments and leaders of the State Bank [as published] of Russia and the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Continued Circulation of the Russian Ruble as Legal Tender on the Territory of Tajikistan Through Year's End." The most important point is that we elaborated a mechanism for implementing this protocol. The idea behind it is that Tajikistan's export potential will be channeled to the Russian Federation without middlemen. In return, Russia has pledged to ensure state support for the deliveries of goods and technologies of vital importance for us.

[Niyazov] At the end of last year Tajikistan's leadership made a series of statements pointing out the need to introduce its own national currency. A group of IMF experts spent about a month working in the republic. Now there is not so much talk about your own money. Why is this?

[Karimov] The analysis of the economy which we conducted indicates that the introduction of a national currency in the near future without commodity production backup for this step will sharply exacerbate the already critical situation in the Tajik economy and, consequently, will bring down the population's living standards. The Tajik Government today cannot take on such a responsibility. But the final decision rests with the new parliament, the Majlis Oli. As regards the IMF, certain complications have developed in our relations with it. First, the aid which the IMF has agreed to grant to Tajikistan was subject to a series of political conditions and, second, the agreed amount of aid itself would in no way have solved our problems and, furthermore, it was scheduled over too long a period of time. Nonetheless, we will continue to work with the IMF and other international financial organizations in the future.

[Niyazov] What about the problem of unifying the monetary systems of Russia and Tajikistan? Reports on this issue are most contradictory.

[Karimov] The agreement and protocol which were signed in Moscow state directly that the September 1993 agreement on the unification of the monetary systems of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan remains in force. But there is a whole series of objective and subjective reasons which prevent the immediate implementation of this measure. We need a whole series of supplementary elaborations to bring our legislative and normative acts in line with Russia's. But one of the main obstacles is the fact that Tajikistan has no common border with the Russian Federation. This is a substantial factor, but it can be overcome with time.

[Niyazov] Dzhamshed Khilolovich, if I have understood you correctly, economic relations between Dushanbe and Moscow are now leaning toward equal partnership. But everyone is aware of the lamentable situation in which the Tajik economy has found itself for a whole series of reasons, even when compared with other former Union republics.

[Karimov] Indeed, Tajikistan is certainly not having it very easy now. Despite all this, however, the republic does have a series of sectors which could provide the basis for a leap in the development of its economy. I have in mind our energy sector, the mining industry, and the chemical production units. Several defense industry enterprises in the north also have a great potential. Now we are working on several alternative options. One of them involves the export of cotton, aluminum, and gold mining industry output. Earnings from raw material exports will enable us to fully satisfy out needs. We have passed our calculations on to the Russian side. Thus, we will be talking not about aid based on new debts but about equivalent exchange of commodities and resources. Furthermore, this mechanism—and this is very important for us—provides that part of the earnings from the export of our output could be credited to the

National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan's correspondent accounts with the Central Bank of Russia, and that we have the right to transfer one-half of these earnings to Tajikistan. [Karimov ends]

At the conclusion of our conversation, Dzhamshed Karimov especially emphasized that "the government's priority task today is to persuade our society that nobody but ourselves can save Tajikistan. If we want to extricate ourselves from the crisis, we must rely only on our own strength. And the agreement adopted in Moscow actually envisages an approach whereby the republic, relying on its own resources and its own production potential, will be an equal partner rather than a supplicant."

Opposition in Afghanistan Fires Rockets on Tajik Territory

LD1103142095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 11 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe March 11 TASS—Tajik armed mojahedin fired several rockets at the Tajik territory from Afghanistan on Friday [10 March] evening, the press service of Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

Missiles exploded between the 11th post of the Pyandzh border detachment and the village of Pogranichnik. Luckily, there were no casualties. Russian border troops retaliated. The enemy firing emplacement was quashed.

Russian borderguards thwarted three attempts by opposition gunmen to infiltrate from Afghanistan into Tajikistan over the past two days.

Repeat Parliamentary Elections Held in 17 Constituencies

LD1203142895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today in the republic repeat elections of candidates to the supreme legislative body of Tajikistan, the Supreme Assembly, are taking place. As you are aware from the report of the Central Electoral Commission on 26 February, this year candidates in 17 constituencies did not obtain the necessary number of votes.

Further on Runoff Election

LD1203144395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe March 12 TASS—Tajikistan holds a runoff election to the parliament today. The republic's average turnout was 51.8 percent by midday.

The election is run in 17 constituencies, in which no candidate collected the required number of votes in February 26 election.

Over 50 percent of electorates already voted in the Khatlon and Leninabad regions today, while only a third of voters so far came to poll stations in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, ITAR-TASS was told in the central election committee.

The results of the runoff election are unlikely to alter the political makeup of the new parliament. In February 26 election, 90 percent of 181 parliament seats were won by nomenklatura (placemen) and factory directors, and 11 seats by delegates of Tajikistan's four registered political parties.

Ethnically, the parliament consists of Tajiks, with ten Uzbeks and two Russians among the deputies.

Final results and the socio-political complexion of the parliament will be certain on Monday.

Communists Most Representative Faction in New Parliament

LD1303093495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 13 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe March 13 TASS—There was a high turnout at runoff elections to higher and local legislative bodies in Tajikistan, ITAR-TASS learnt at the Republican Electoral Commission here on Monday [13 March]. According to preliminary data, 69.6 per cent of the electorate went to the polls. As many as 58.8 per cent voted in the three Dushanbe constituencies.

Thus, the elections were held in 179 out of 181 constituencies. Runoff elections in the remaining two constituencies will be held somewhat later.

ITAR-TASS could not get information about the personal composition of the republican legislature from a single official source.

However, according to information from independent sources, the first fiddle at the new national parliament will be played by the same administrative and industrial top executives. There are just a few representatives from culture and science, and only five women.

Communists are the most representative among political parties: they won 60 seats in the new legislature. Other political parties, recently registered in Tajikistan—the People's Party, the Party of National Unity and the Party of Political and Economic Renovation—have six seats in the new parliament.

Electoral Commission Head on Election Outcome

LD1303115795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The electorate in 17 constituencies in Tajikistan on 12 March voted in repeat elections to elect deputies to the Supreme Assembly. According to reports received, repeat elections were successful in three constituencies in the city of Dushanbe, one constituency in the Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Region, four constituencies in Leninabad Region, seven constituencies in Khatlon Region, and two constituencies in republic-run areas. It should be said that all candidates to the Supreme Assembly gathered more that 50 percent of the electorate's votes.

Now listen to the views of Kholmurod Sharipov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission on this subject.

[Begin Sharipov recording] [passage omitted]

The result of the election is that elections were successful in all constituencies where we held repeat votes. We gained what we wanted—our goal—because, according to preliminary reports which we have received by telephone and telegraph, the deputies have been elected in all the constituencies I have mentioned.

[Correspondent] Now only one campaign is left, to hold a repeat election in Ura Tyube.

[Sharipov] Well, according to the requirements of the Republic of Tajikistan electoral law and to the work plan we have acted upon until now, a campaign for the nomination of a candidate has not been carried out in one constituency—constituency 94—or the campaign for registration and pre-electorial debate. We do not know how many people will be nominated, but we hope that worthy people will be found and nominated, and that we will find one more representative of the people from ancient Ura Tyube. Everything that the electoral law demands will be observed, and this issue is under the control of the Central Electoral Commission.

[Correspondent] We have one more question, Kholmurod Sharipovich. Thus, according to your own words, 99 percent of the people's representatives to parliament have been elected. Now I think, according to the law, the first session of the new parliament will be held in one month's time.

[Sharipov] According to the provisions of our basic law, the Constitution which was approved by the people of Tajikistan, the Central Electoral Commission, will fix the date of the first session of the Supreme Assembly of Tajikistan a month after the elections. There is much time; we will find time by approximately 26 March if we identify the issues that are to be resolved. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Government-Rebel Radio Communications Link Set Up

LD1203171495 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0635 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Yesterday [11 March], at the central headquarters of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, held a meeting with a delegation from the joint commission of the observers supervising the cease-fire implementation, headed by General Hasan Abbas. Delegates from the government and opposition [words indistinct] took part. Komron Himmatzoda has a report on this meeting.

[Himmatzoda] The meeting took place at the central headquarters of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan yesterday morning. After the guests and hosts were introduced, Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, welcomed the guests and asked that those present, in particular, the delegates of Tajikistan (?start the meeting) and say what they had in their hearts. The professor also said that our brothers must not think us so radical and must know that we are normal people and our goals are the liberty and independence of our country and nothing else.

Then the head of the joint cease-fire supervisory commission, UN General Hasan Abbas, thanked Prof. Nuri for the warm welcome and his hospitality and reported on the work carried out by the commission. According to General Hasan Abbas, at the moment in Dushanbe [figure indistinct] and in Kurgan-Tyube 40 international observers are supervising the cease-fire in Tajikistan.

General Hasan Abbas said that this number is not enough for comprehensive supervision and it is necessary to increase it. Hasan Abbas said: During these four months we have had repeated talks with the leaders of Tajikistan and the Russian border troops, but there was no communication between us and the military leaders of the opposition. That is why many of our steps are not producing the desired results. That is why we wanted to establish this communication and coordinate our work. Not having reciprocal communication we were left ignorant of important events that cause cease-fire breaches.

General Hasan Abbas said that recently Russian border guards arrested eight of the opposition's supporters in Badakhshan and handed them over to the government. The eight were released as a result of the efforts of the UN and security authorities of Dushanbe. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant Colonel (Mansur), the deputy head of the Political Branch of the Tajik Defense Ministry, thanked the top officials of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan for their sincere hospitality and presented a list of 48 military POWs. They are all from the Leninabad Region. He said that for him it will be sufficient to know whether they are dead or alive.

Then Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri spoke and recalled the recent past, analyzing the causes and roots of Tajikistan's wars. Prof. Nuri said that all that has passed was the result of the deeds of foreign enemies and said that foreigners did not want Tajikistan to be independent and free. They supported the traitors and disloyal forces and succeeded in turning freedom-seeking actions into a civil war. [passage omitted]

Prof. Nuri considered the Russian border Troops one of the causes of tension. He criticized the UN for not being able to put pressure on them in order to force them to respect the Tehran Agreement and stop the cease-fire violations. The top leader warned: If these political games continue, in future we will take decisive action, and we have enough force and power for this. Prof. Nuri resolutely claimed that if the Dushanbe regime indeed wants peace then it must definitely withdraw its forces from Darvaz, the Russian border troops must return eight arms caches that it has stolen, all newly established border posts must be removed, and the situation should revert to as it was before the Islamabad talks. The respected leader of the people warned that the Dushanbe regime must not think that it will be able to solve the problems by mounting political campaigns, taking over Badakhshan, etc. The only way is negotiations.

Then there were exchanges of views between the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the delegation from the joint commission.

Because of the efforts of the two sides, by the end of the session radio contact between Taleqan and Dushanbe was established.

The top leader, talking about the POWs, said that the names of 21 will be given to the delegation, but another eight who were born in the village of Kurgovat should be investigated first. [passage omitted]

Finally, Prof. Nuri once again thanked the guests for coming to the session and said that he will do whatever is necessary to restore peace and stability in the country.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Outlines Goals for Copenhagen Conference

LD1103134895 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1100 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, left for the city of Copenhagen today to take part in the conference with the heads of more than 120 countries and heads of authoritative international organizations. Our special correspondent, Ghofur Jamolov, took part in the seeing- off ceremony and recorded the conversation between our leader and journalists before his departure. Here is the conversation.

[Begin Karimov recording] [passage omitted]

A total of 130 states and about 120 international organizations are taking part in this conference. That is why my main aim is to to tell the world that a state called Uzbekistan has appeared on the world map and to inform about the aims of Uzbekistan, about the present work and policy that Uzbekistan is doing to become a great state. Making a speech at such a large conference, showing Uzbekistan's authority and demonstrating Uzbekistan on the whole is of great significance, because we can reach our goals only through international cooperation. That is why on every possible occasion and at conferences our main aim is to demonstrate Uzbekistan, to show Uzbekistan.

Our second aim is to attract world attention to the tragedy, the problem of the Aral Sea, its influence on the conditions, standard of living and health of about 50 million people living in Central Asia, and once more to call, to address the international conference and international community and to attract their attention to solving this problem; once more to say—people, you ought to know, if we do not take measures today, tomorrow this tragedy will reach Europe. That is why we are going to draw attention to this.

One more aim, around us, if we are going to talk about social policy, social prosperity, first of all we need peace and tranquillity. If peace and tranquillity are not organized in this region, it will be very difficult for us to implement any of our plans and programs.

That is why we need to attract the attention of the United Nations to the instability and difficulties in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and to prevent this danger to us, our people, our native land from this area. From this point of view, I would like to say once more, there are many such tragedies in the world. Much attention is paid to Bosnia, to Europe; there is much aid, there is aid to the Caucasus, but not so much attention is paid to our nearest neighbors, to the present difficult situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. On the whole, the international community is somehow ignoring them. There is somehow the attitude that this tragedy, this problem, will be resolved by itself.

Using this conference, this possibility, I once more want to call on the international community to create peace in this region, in Central Asia. I once more want to say, let there be no help for us, create peace for us; help us to defend ourselves. If there is tranquillity and stability, Uzbekistan has enough power to defend itself and to raise social policy to the highest degree and we have enough strength to become equal with other developed states. [end recording]

Energy System Still Affected by Nonpayments

LD1103142495 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification has settled accounts with its creditors. The opportunity to pay with the products the consumer needs was helpful. Everyone needs electricity. And this fact made the business easier. The specific requirements of the Ministry of Power Engineering complicated the mutual settlements on a barter basis. It needs generators, turbines, and several thousand components that are not produced in the republic.

Debts owed to the Ministry of Power Engineering by consumers exceed 1.3 billion soms. One-third of them are debts incurred by enterprises of the state-owned chemical concern. Chemical giants in Navoi alone owe a couple hundred million [soms]. Yet there are many other debtors. The Ministry of Public Utilities and Uzbeklegprom [Uzbek clothing industry] have to pay 100 million each for electricity. A bit less—85 million—is what collective and state-owned farms have to pay. The debt the Tashteplokommunenergo [Tashkent thermal communal power] company incurred is several times higher than that. There are many other examples of this kind. So it turns out that a product has been given but no payment made for it.

Power engineering specialists no longer have to be tolerant toward the debtors. "The rules for using electricity and thermal power" are in force in Uzbekistan. In accordance with them, Uzenergonadzor [Uzbek Energy Supervisory Committee] has the right to cut off electricity to debtors failing to pay. But in many cases it is impossible to exercise this right. The product is of a special nature. If electricity is cut off not only enterprises, but also the republic itself will sustain economic losses and ecological damage.

Penalties, right up to having electricity supplies cut off, are defined for those who squander energy, compressed air, and water. Uzenergonadzor inspectors have been assigned to control this. They impose tough penalties even on those who commit minor infringements of the rules. But they are unable to replenish the ministry's budget. However, by finding reserves they are helpful in economizing on resources so as not to use them for the production of actually redundant energy. Here they are planning to reduce the capacity of units by 350 megawatts during peak demand. That means enough fuel is saved for two units of the Tashkent state regional power station or for one unit of the Novoangren state regional power station.

Here are the statistics for electricity consumption in recent years: 1991—45.2 billion kilowatt-hours, 1994—39.2 billion. Part of the reduction is due to enterprises aiming for the economic use of energy under pressure from Uzenergonadzor. But the decline in production also "helped." It is forecast that demand for electricity will be higher this year because enterprises are getting into full swing. At the same time, those enterprises put their breadwinners—it is not for nothing that they call electricity the breadwinner in industry—in a very difficult position.

"We have no money, please postpone the date of payment," the Tashkent tractor factory appeals, and the appeal is just one of many. "Please, let us delay paying the debt we owe for energy received until April and do not impose fines until then. We will resume full production operations in the middle of March. We will be solvent by April. We can pay part of the debt with our output—tractors and trailers." The factory owes 4 million soms.

The method of payment seems to be complex as it is in kind rather than with money. Due to lack of money only 74 percent of repairs to heating systems were carried out last year and 50 percent of the planned reconstruction work was carried out. This is just part of the power engineering system. Now, as spring sets in, it is necessary to be ready to repair not only heating systems, but also power generating units and power stations. Given that there are no resources for maintaining the energy system, for making repairs to it, for developing it, can one really hope that the energy system will support the anticipated growth in industry?

Tax Official Explains New Excise Rates

LD1103125795 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Mar 95 p19

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 1 January 1995 new excise rates were introduced for certain industrial goods and foodstuffs. At the same time excise tax was abolished for a number of goods. The editors asked Zoya Ivanovna Tuchkova, the chief state tax inspector of the indirect tax division of the state taxation department ofthe city of Tashkent, to comment on this situation and answer a number of questions from readers. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Zoya Ivanovna, now a few words about the latest changes in the legislation as regards excise tax.

[Tuchkova] You will remember that in line with Instruction No 6/13 of 15 January 1993 from the Finance Ministry and the State Taxation Committee, enterprises and organizations of all forms of ownership which produce and sell goods subject to excise tax must pay excise tax. From 1 January 1995, in accordance with the presidential decree and the resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers No. 600 of 13 December 1994, new excise rates have been introduced for the following goods: fortified and dessert wines, 70-75 percent; champagne, 75 percent; beer, 40 percent; Russian-style cigarettes, 25 percent. Excise rates have been reduced for: gasoline, diesel fuel and kerosene, from 60 percent to 40 percent; vodka, from 96 percent to 84 percent; carpet and carpet products, from 60 percent to 40 percent.

I would like to draw attention to the following fact: from 23 January excise rates for fortified and dry wines have been reduced to 52 percent. This is everything regarding the changes to existing excise rates.

At the same time, from the same date, excises have been introduced for new kinds of goods and products. Namely: cigarettes, 40 percent; oil and gas condensate, 44 percent; natural leather, fur and Karakul pelts, 15 percent; silver cutlery, 10 percent; vegetable oil, 70 percent; imported alcohol and tobacco products, 40 percent.

Excise rates are established as a percentage of the selling price consisting of the production cost, profit and excise.

An enterprise's selling price is determined in the following way: the selling price is the wholesale price multiplied by 100, divided by 100 minus the excise rate; the amount of excise which will go to the budget is: the selling price multiplied by the excise rate divided by 100.

Excises for tobacco products and alcoholic drinks imported to the republic are calculated in accordance with Temporary Instructions No. 105 and 106 of 12 October 1994 approved by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the state taxation committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It is necessary to take into account that the invoice cost of the imported goods will be the basis for charging excise, such cost being converted into soms at the rate set by the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the time of processing by customs. The invoice cost consists of: the cost of the goods, insurance, payment for shipment and unloading and transport expenses.

Excise tax is not applied to goods sold in duty free shops located in places defined by customs bodies.

[Correspondent] Would you mind listing the goods for which, from 1 January, excise tax has been abolished?

[Tuchkova] Sets of furniture, crystal products, porcelain sets, refrigerators, television sets, thermoses, soft drinks in 1.5 liter plastic bottles, extracts and spirit liqueurs. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Interparliamentary Agreement Signed With France

NC1103194295 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1222 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Hayastani Hanrapetutyun", "Azg" dailies), 03/11/95—Having finished the visit to the USA, Chairman of RA [Republic of Armenia] Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan arrived to Paris on March 9, and signed an Armenian-French agreement on Friendship and Collaboration.

On French side the agreement was signed by Deputy Chairman of French National Assembly Eric Rauld (RPR). French Ambassador to Armenia Ms. France d'Arting, Armenian Charge d'Affairs in France Vahan Ter-Ghevondyan and other officials participated in the ceremony.

According to Mr. Bagratyan [name as received], this was Armenia's 5th agreement of the kind, after similar agreements with Russian Federation, Georgia, Syria, and Lebanon. He noted that Armenian-French parliamentary relations have long history. Mr. Bagratyan returned to Armenia on March 10.

Russia's Shumeyko Discusses Cooperation

NC1003170895 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1040 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 09/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—On March 8, Yerevan "AZG" daily published an interview with the Chairman of the Council of Federation of the Russian Federal Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko. The following are the essential passages from the interview.

In response to a question, whether it would be just to say that a new pause took place in his peace-making activities for settlement of Karabakh conflict, Shumeyko said:

"I would not call it a pause. As you know, since May 12 of the last year, after signing of the notorious Bishkek protocol, military activities have been ceased on the territory of Mountainous Karabakh. It may look like we idle now having achieved this. But is not true. The fact is that an active work continues all the time, but on a completely different frontier - diplomacy. The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have met and negotiated in Moscow. The OSCE has joined us and offered its peace-keeping potential. We have even gone as far as the UN Security Council in order to solve these problems. And finally, today the diplomatic negotiations do not discuss possibilities for resumption of hostilities at the frontier. Different, lobby negotiations (although I would not like to use this word) are conducted which have a task of finding ways for approachment [as received] to the matter of Karabakh's territorial and state status. Still a question remains, how is it going to be defined, once a peace treaty is signed, the troops are withdrawn and refugees return to their homes. The great achievement of Bishkek protocol and this kind of negotiations is that an order has been set: first—a complete peace, return of refugees and only the last—talks on territorial and state status of Karabakh. But this is a most complex issue: both in historical and political aspects. That is the reason, as I see it, that drastic measures are not taken for final peaceful settlement. Nonetheless, work is still being carried out, I have met with OSCE representatives in Moscow and St. Petersburg and we have agreed that we follow the right course."

Shumeyko disagreed with a statement that until there is oil at stake, until the problem of oil transportation is urgent, the situation at the frontier will be unstable and the peace will be threatened. He said: "There are speculations that the route of the oil pipe line through Chechnya is the most profitable for Russia and that is why Moscow acts so harshly on this territory. It may have some influence, but I would not raise it to the level of crucial circumstances. The problems are absolutely different there.

"At its best times - middle 70s - Russia was mining 628-700 million tons of oil per year. And the fact that today it mines less is not due to the lack of ability or capabilities to do so, but is caused by certain difficulties in the oil industry and temporary problems in the economy. For instance, on the territory of Chechnya it is possible to mine 4 million tons of oil, but the resources are being exhausted there and what is left will last for another 10 or 15 years. In other words, the amount of oil mined in the regions we talk about does not have a crucial or enormous meaning for Russia. Russia does not lead a strategical policy in this direction. I would not try to find connections or similarities between these processes."

According to Shumeyko, "in no case" Armenia should be regarded as a buffer zone between Russia and Turkey.

"Russia and Armenia are not only connected by common Soviet past. Their relations have a long history and are based, first of all, on common Orthodox Christian religion. Echmiadzin accepted Christianity much earlier than St. Vladimir converted Russia to it. And this common religion, belief and striving for God create a completely different understanding between the nations.

"Touching upon general relations between Russia and Armenia, I can say that many Armenians reside in Russia. I have lived in Kuban for 30 years and can't imagine Krasnodar region without Armenians. This is what is called brotherhood. And that's why Russia regards Armenia as an equal partner and the Russian policy regarding Armenia respects liberty and sovereignty."

Shumeyko pointed out that the credit allotted lately by Russia to Armenia is mutually profitable for both countries. "These funds will be spent on restoration of electric power plants, because energy is the primary issue for the

Armenian economy. At the same time, giving energy to Armenia we help our enterprises because we use Russian technology for restoration of the Armenian energy system. It is mutually profitable: by developing the energy system of Armenia we enable this country to gain economic momentum and, at the same time, we help ourselves in this hard situation. And this creates wider opportunities for further integration.

"Moreover, we have reached an agreement with Armenia (although it has not been yet ratified) on deployment of a Russian military base on its territory. At first it may seem as a bad thing: Russian military base on the territory of a sovereign state. However, on the other hand, why should Armenia establish its own military forces if there is an agreement between the two friendly states. Any state should have a system of national security and if we perceive this military base as a basis for national security of Armenia, then it is not only friendship but a great gain for Armenia. We don't look for common things today, like the Marxist and Lenin ideology of the past, but we try to build our external politics on principles of respect and mutual interest."

Russian Aircraft Fly Over Armenia

NC1003180095 Yerevan SNARK in English 1421 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 9 (SNARK)—Lately, a number of Turkish and Azeri media sources informed on alleged intrusions into their air space of Russian military aircrafts from the territory of Armenia.

To check the truth of this information, the Snark correspondent addressed Maj. Gen. Aleksey Tretyakov, the Commander of Russian Armed Forces Group in Armenia. The General related appearance of such information in Turkish and Azeri media with redislocation of Russian Air Force defensive group to Armenia. This group, said Gen. Tretyakov, is armed only with MIG-23P fighters aimed at interception of air invaders, and unsuitable for air strikes. Also the aircrafts perform only training flights, and strictly over the Armenian territory.

As for intrusion into the air space over Fizuli and Goradiz towns as well as other regions of the adjacent states mentioned in Turkish and Azeri media, it is a pure fabrication, said Gen. Tretyakov in conclusion.

Armenian, Azerbaijani Ministers Working on Cease-Fire

NC1003145895 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that following the agreement reached during the telephone conversation between Presidents Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev on 7 March on the periodic violation of the cease-fire on the border zone in Tavush Region by the Azerbaijani Army units over the past week, the two countries' defense ministers also held a telephone conversation. As a result, the ministries' representatives have already gone to the conflict zone, to Tavush and Tauz Regions respectively, where they are registering the cease-fire violations, determining the reasons for the violations through a direct line between them, and sending the final data to the defense ministers.

Perhaps this is why the week-long tension on the northeast border subsided somewhat yesterday. The Azerbaijani armed formations opened fire from large-caliber machine guns at the defensive positions in Vahan, Krasnoselsk, between 1910-2000. There were no casualties. Our border troops did not return fire.

No incidents have taken place elsewhere on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border since last night. We have received no additional information from the Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service.

No incidents were registered on the Karabakh fronts either, according to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters Press Service.

Democrats Present Pre-Election Program

NC1003191695 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1435 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] On March 9 a meeting of the Presidium of the Democratic Party of Armenia [DPA] with Armenian intellectuals took place at the Head Office of the Party. Some 200 people attended the meeting. A pre-electoral program of the Party was the subject of discussion.

The leader of the Party Aram Sargisyan told about the history of establishment of the Democratic Party of Armenia. According to him, the Party was formed on the basis of Communist Party's social-democratic wing, which broke away from Communist Party of Armenia in 1991.

Sargisian assured that the Party has special anti-crisis program. He pointed out that the issue of adoption of the Armenian Constitution can be handed down to the future National Assembly of Armenia only in case the latter is multiparty one. Accepting the fact that posts of President and Prime Minister are necessary, the leader of DPA noted that at the same time it is necessary to gradually eliminate centralization of power in one organ and the above-mentioned officials must be accountable to the Parliament.

DPA pays special attention to the problem of unemployment and treats it as a national disaster. Re-qualification of enterprises, development of scientific branches of production are considered to be measures, which can eliminate unemployment. Sargisyan also believes that it is important to establish and develop cooperation with other countries. He did not conceal DPA's special attitude to Russia, which is viewed as stable ally and "an important friend".

The Party sees the resolution of the Karabakh problem in cessation of combat operations.

Azat Yeghiazaryan, the member of the DPA's Presidium, said that the Democratic Party of Armenia is against any worsening of relations with Turkey, but it does not mean that the Party denies Armenian Cause and Genocide of 1915.

Political Party Closes Offices Abroad

NC1103185995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1509 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 11 (SNARK)—One of the Armenian opposition parties—"National Self-Determination Association" announced about the closure of its foreign offices. In the today's statement the party also claimed Armenians living in USA, France, Germany and other countries to return to their motherland. "It is impossible from the political and moral points of view to have influence upon the political life of their republic by being citizens of foreign state," the statement reads.

Local observers note, that, in opposition to it, the ruling Armenian party—Armenian National Movement—tries to set up offices in abroad, particularly in the USA.

New 'Information Agency' Opens in Yerevan

NC1003180395 Yerevan SNARK in English 1043 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 9 (SNARK)—Its first output made public the new Information Agency "LURATU" (meaning "Herald") that opened lately in Yerevan. Thus the number of news agencies functioning currently in Armenia has reached five.

Nairi Badalian, the LURATU manager, said the agency intends to issue political and economic information. He refused to give the names of the agency sponsors, however, noting only that they are not engaged in policy.

ARF Assembly Issues Statement on Session

NC1003180195 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1414 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 09/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—Recently, the Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] Regional Assembly of the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun Party has been held in Stepanakert. The Assembly passed a number of resolutions and elected an executive body (Central Committee). Participants of the Assembly issued the following statement:

"The MKR's [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Regional Assembly of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation - Dashnaktsutiun Party, being committed to Armenian people's determination to establish an independent and united Armenia, condemning all attempts to split the unity of the Armenian people, calls upon all Armenians to strengthen national unity and without sparing themselves support peoples of Armenia and Artsakh, as well as contribute toward the strengthening of the Armenia's statehood and promote the process of recognition of the independent Republic of Mountainous Karabakh by the international community. ARF pledges to support and encourage those, who remain committed to the idea of independent and united Armenia, those, who will defend the boundaries of the MKR and will not spare efforts for restoration of devastated areas and establishment of democracy and prosperity in the region..."

Nagorno-Karabakh Moves To Liberalize Foreign Trade

NC1103193595 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1222 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("Lragir" daily-SNARK), 03/11/95—The main problem of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Government today is to define the rules for liberation of foreign trade.

Press service of the RMK Government reported that, at the same time, measures are planned to facilitate export of goods out of the republic. An opportunity for independent trade operations with foreign countries will be provided to interested organizations. At the same time, it is planned to leave the customs charges unchanged. An export license will only be needed for production of special importance or of military interest.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Leaves for Copenhagen UN Summit

NC1003161295 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1250 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic's president, Geydar Aliyev, left for Copenhagen today to take part in the UN Summit for Social Development.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] During the summit the Republic's president will meet the presidents of various countries and hold contacts to attract investment from international institutions. Before leaving the Azerbaijani president gave a statement to our program. Mr. President, the problems being discussed at the summit are closely connected with Azerbaijan's realities. In what way will the documents to be adopted be linked with Azerbaijan's interests?

[Aliyev] I do not know what documents will be adopted. But what is clear is that holding this summit and adopting documents are both closely linked with Azerbaijan's life and the most important problems for Azerbaijan's life, because this meeting is devoted to the social development of people everywhere. Undoubtedly, this is of interest for every country, but it is of greater importance for Azerbaijan, which is currently experiencing a grave crisis, and living under war conditions with over 1 million refugees and over 20 percent of its territory occupied.

This international conference is important for every country, and it is of special importance for Azerbaijan. I expect much from it and I hope our wishes will be fulfilled.

[Correspondent] The chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, Rasul Guliyev, Acting Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and deputy prime ministers, ministers, and directors of firms and committees saw Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev off at Bina Airport. [end recording]

Aliyev Received Israel's Minister of Health Service

NC1103143295 Baku TURAN in English 0846 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 10) TURAN—Last evening President Aliyev received Israel's Minister of Health Service, Efrayim Sne.

Israeli guest said that the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of health service has good perspectives. 5 million dollars provided by the oil consortium for the construction of the hospital in Baku will be spent for construction of Baku's International medical centre. The companies from the U.S., Israel and Azerbaijan will take part in its construction.

The guest also said that on March 9 the agreement between Azerbaijan's and Israel's Ministries of Health service was signed and this is the first intergovernmental document.

President Aliyev said that he welcomes the bilateral cooperation and hopes that Baku's International Medical centre will be the model centre and will be useful for everybody. "What we make is our duty, what you make is assistance to Azerbaijan and we are very glad to that," President Aliyev said at the end.

Aliyev Satisfied With Course of Oil Contract

NC1103141195 Baku TURAN in English 0846 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 10) TURAN—Last evening President Aliyev received the U.S. Ambassador, Richard Kauzlarich, the UK Ambassador, Thomas Young as well as the President of Azerbaijan's International Operation Company, Terry Adams, at their request.

During the meeting Terry Adams informed about the results of the work over the first two months. The works on the sea platform Chirag-1 have already begun.

He also said that he would like to discuss the commercial issue with Azerbaijan's leadership.

President Aliyev expressed satisfaction with the course of implementation of the oil contract. "I am glad that the work on the sea platform Chirag-1 have begun, though some persons assured that this platform is in bad condition."

Touching upon Azerbaijan's share in the consortium, Azeri President said that there are several proposals of the foreign companies on this issue and Baku is yet to adopt the final resolution.

Then the meeting passed behind the closed doors.

U.S. Oil Deal With Iran Effects Caspian Consortium

NC1203150995 Baku TURAN in English 1929 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 10) TURAN—On 6 March in Tehran an agreement between the U.S. company "Conoco" and the Iranian State Oil Company was signed. Such a sensational and at first sight unbelievable information was confirmed by the USA. According to USIA agency the Press-Secretary of the White House Michael McCurry described as legal the $1,000 million agreement under which Conoco, a Houston based subsidiary of DuPont Company, will develop Iranian oil and natural gas reserves, but he said it is "not a helpful development" in light of the "general thrust" of U.S. policy toward Tehran. He said Washington seeks "to bring pressure to bear on Iran to get them to behave in the world community." But he said Conoco needed no government approval to sign the agreement, and as far as he knew, did not seek any.

The actions of Conoco and these confused words of the White House press-secretary make all the previous statements of the U.S. that the U.S. consider impossible the cooperation with Iran meaningless. But it is difficult to think that people in the White House are not clever. It is more logically to suppose that Washington decided to revise relations with Iran (for at least in the sphere of oil production.) If it is so, there will be not a problem of Iran's participation in the oil contract in the Caspian sea. That means that the USA will agree with the route of the oil pipeline through the territory of Iran.

State Commission for Privatization Created

NC1103185295 Baku TURAN in English 0851 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 10) TURAN—On March 8 President Aliyev signed the decree "On measures for privatization of state property of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

By the Presidential decree the State Commission at the head of the Chairman of the State Committee for Property, Tofik Azizov, is created. The Commission is instructed to prepare the privatization program and normative acts and submit them for the consideration by the President.

The decree was signed after the meeting in the Presidential staff on March 7 dedicated to the privatization problems.

President Aliyev said during the meeting that he expected Tofik Azizov to present the privatization program, while he presented only the concept.

Azizov proposed to conduct privatization in Azerbaijan on the basis of vouchers. The former Chairman of the State Committee for Property, Gudrat Abdulsalimzade said that this was the only difference between the new concept of the privatization and the previous program worked out under him. Under the previous program, the shares of the citizens were remitted to the special privatization accounts.

Azizov proposes stage-by-stage privatization and open turning of the enterprises into the joint-stock companies, he considers that the first stage of privatization will take 5 years and the whole privatization - 10 years. It is proposed to privatize at first small and average enterprises and in 1995 it is proposed to privatize 8,768 such enterprises (mostly enterprises of service system and trade), that is 14.8 percent of all enterprises and 5 percent of the whole basic funds. The trade and service enterprises with the staff of 50 employees and industrial enterprises with the staff of 150 employees must be privatized. 15 percent of the privatized property will be exchanged for vouchers as the privatization shares of the citizens, 30 percent will be realized at the exchange stocks and the remaining 55 percent will be realized at vouchers.

The speaker of the Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, said that Azizov's proposals are just one of the variants of the privatization implementation but it is not the answer to the question what is the essence of the privatization in Azerbaijan. He said that Azizov's report is abstract.

He thinks that first of all it is necessary to estimate the cost of the whole state property. The speaker thinks that it totals 60 trillion manats, that is 12 times more than the State Committee for Property reported. Secondly, it is necessary to define the share of the state sector in the economy. The speaker said that the state property totals 90-95 percent of the whole economy. He also considers that it is necessary to decrease the state property to 20 percent. The Parliament speaker mentioned that the privatization must be conducted quickly. Rasul Guliyev said that the privatization conducted within several years will be unsuccessful.

New 'Vahtad' Party Founded

NC1103171295 Baku TURAN in English 0851 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 10) TURAN—Today there was the press conference of the Constituent Committee of "Vahtad" (Unity) Party in the building of "Baku and Baku's villages" Union. The member of the Committee, Sahib Mamedov, said that the Constituent Committee was founded on December 3, 1994, and Jebrial Alizade, the current Chairman of "Baku and Baku's villages" Union was appointed its chairman. The Constituent Committee also includes the following Deputies of Supreme Soviet: Tair Kerimli (the former Chairman of the Supreme Court of the republic), Fizuli Ahundov (Deputy Mayor of Baku), Sahib Mamedov (the former head of the Executive power of Baku's Yasamal Region), People's Artist of the Republic, Yashar Nuriyev, and others.

The statement of the party reads that the ideological basis of the party is "the synthesis of the Turkish, Islam and general values". The party considers that the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict can be settled only by military-political method. As far as the oil contract is concerned, the party considers that the contract must correspond to the interests of Azerbaijan. The party thinks it impossible to remove the current regime by force.

"The harmonious unity of the national and liberal principles is the basis of our ideology", Tair Kerimli mentioned. He said that the party rejects the class struggle and sees the division into nations, races and religions unacceptable. Tair Kerimli added that the party comes out for one-Chamber Parliament, unitary structure of the Parliament, and considers the joining of Azerbaijan in military-political blocs to be impossible.

The Constituent conference of the party is to be conducted in month after the expiration date of the state of emergency.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Meets Aliyev, Velayati at Summit

LD1203135295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The press secretariat of the Georgian head of state reports that speeches by heads of states at the Copenhagen world summit on social development were mainly constructive and offered a number of practical suggestions. [passage omitted]

Eduard Shevardnadze, whose arrival in Copenhagen was welcomed enthusiastically by the political circles, made a speech today, 12 March.

Shevardnadze had a meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev yesterday [11 March]. Aliyev told journalists from Azerbaijan, Georgia, and other countries that the sides had agreed on the necessity of closer cooperation among the three states of Transcaucasia in order to settle all current problems. Shevardnadze, for his part, said that an effective breakthrough was required in the region because many acute problems had accumulated and the three Transcaucasian states were eager to settle them. We had a wonderful meeting, was how Shevardnadze characterized his meeting with the Azerbaijani president.

It was late night in Tbilisi when Shevardnadze met 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Shevardnadze Calls For Social, Political Justice

LD1203162595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 12 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Taras Lariokhin, and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen March 12 TASS—"We are approaching a stage where the efforts of the United Nations, European structures, countries which are Georgia's friends, the Commonwealth of Independent States and primarily Russia will at last bring long-awaited results in settling internal conflicts in Georgia unleashed not without outside support," Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said.

Speaking at the world summit for social development in Copenhagen on Sunday, Shevardnadze said that the social consequences of internal conflicts are appalling and welcomed the calls for the restoration of social justice.

"But until political justice is restored it is pointless to wait for social justice to prevail," he added.

"As long as thousands of people feel deceived in their hope of assistance from those strong and international organisations, the disintegration will invariably be part of our life," Shevardnadze said.

Aggressive separatism faces not only Georgia, he continued. Georgia is not the only country which is ridden with internal conflicts. "Only within the state whose sovereignty, integrity and borders are well protected can social and economic progress be possible," he said.

EU To Supply $16 Million for Food Purchases

LD1003204295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Mar 10 (INTERFAX)—The European Union [EU] will give Georgia 12 million ECU (about $16 million) for purchasing food, including grain, in 1995, First Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Committee on Foreign Economic Policy Nugzar Duchidze told INTERFAX.

He said the EU had already granted Georgia a loan of 35 million ECU (about $45 million) in 1994. Duchidze said the EU and Georgia had agreed on the EU delivering in 1995 to the ex-Soviet republic around 250,000 tonnes of grain, vegetable oil, sugar and other food products. He stressed that Georgia would also receive about 230,000 tonnes of grain from the U.S. in humanitarian aid in 1995.

Georgia annually requires 1.1-1.2 million tonnes of food grain and 600,000-700,000 tonnes of forage grain. Georgia has witnessed a significant fall in its grain harvest over recent years because of unfavorable weather conditions, domestic armed conflicts and an overall economic crisis.

There is no official statistics on grain harvesting in 1993-1994. However, experts of the Georgian Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry said only several dozen thousand tonnes of grain had been collected in the republic each of those years.

The Georgian cabinet in early 1995 approved the State Grain Program with a price-tag of around $455 million which is to boost grain production. The program provides for significantly raising grain production and processing in 1995- 2000. However, the Agriculture Ministry said Georgia did not yet have money for carrying the program out.

Foreign Investment in Abkhazia Discouraged

LD1103163395 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1330 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—The Georgian Cabinet of Ministers has issued a statement, which says, in particular:

In accordance with the law of the Republic of Georgia on the privatization of state enterprises, this process is successfully proceeding on the entire territory of Georgia. Only in Abkhazia, due to the well-known reasons, has the privatization process been suspended.

According to available information, the privatization of state property is under way in the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. However, ignoring the interests of the majority of the population of Abkhazia, which has been forcibly expelled from the republic, commercial structures from Russia and some other countries are actively involved in this process.

In line with its decision of 10 March 1994 [year as received], the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia regards all legislative acts adopted by Abkhazia's separatist leadership as being legally void and contrary to the interests of Georgian legislation.

In this connection, the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers urges all legal entities and individuals as well as foreign representatives not to conclude any agreements with the so-called Abkhaz leadership. Otherwise, all sale and purchase agreements or any other contracts concluded on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia will be deemed legally null and void. Georgia disclaims responsibility for the sums invested.

Russian Duma's Call for Open Border Criticized

LD1003135395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic have issued a statement protesting the Russian State Duma's recommendation that the Russian-Georgian border along the river Psou be opened in view of the acute shortage of foodstuffs and vital necessities in Abkhazia.

The statement says that the opening of the border would cause even greater destabilization of the socio-political situation in the region and make it easy for illegal armed formations to enter the autonomous republic from the North Caucasus and vice versa. It notes that the Russian State Duma's action is contrary to the decision adopted at the meeting of CIS heads of state in Almaty, which once again stressed the immovability of borders and the territorial integrity of Georgia.

Attempt To Export 46 Damaged Tanks as Scrap

LD1203143595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian military prosecutor's office has instituted a criminal case against an attempt to illegally sell state property abroad. The Mediko company and the Gori training center of the Georgian Defense Ministry have concluded an agreement stipulating that the above-mentioned company had the right to buy 46 damaged tanks; i.e., approximately 1,500 tonnes of metal scrap, belonging to the Georgian Defense Ministry for further sale abroad. An investigation is under way.

Estonia

Baltic Leaders Discuss Topics for Talks With Gore

LD1203212095 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1900 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime ministers of the Baltic states arrived in Tallinn this evening. At dinner, they will discuss tomorrow's meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The talks tomorrow are to focus on the security of the Baltic states and the situation in Chechnya.

[Correspondent] Latvian Prime Minister Maris Gailis thinks that for Latvia it is important to discuss the defense of air space and possible NATO membership. From the point of view of Latvia's security, Maris Gailis considers it important to repatriate retired Russian officers to the Russian Federation. The Latvian prime minister regards cooperation between the prime ministers of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as generally good.

[Begin Gailis recording, in Russian] It seems that sometimes bilateral relations are more difficult than tripartite ones. For example, we have the unresolved issue of the sea border with Estonia. This is one of the most acute issues and we have to discuss it. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius thinks that it would not be possible to gain NATO membership very soon. At tomorrow's meeting, he hopes to discuss concluding an investment protection agreement between Lithuania and the United States. The prime minister says that the prime ministers of the Baltic states are constantly coordinating their positions.

[Begin Slezevicius recording, in Russian] We are very glad that we do not have disagreements on any of the main issues, including the ones to be discussed at our meeting tomorrow. [end recording]

Diplomat: Gore's Visit Shows Support for 'Stability'

WS1303115095 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Mar 10, BNS—The visit of U.S. Vice President Al Gore to Estonia is an affirmation of the support the United States gives to Estonia's independence and its "integration into the Western family of nations," Jon Gundersen, U.S. charge d'affaires, told a news conference in Tallinn on Friday [10 March].

The visit will be a show of support for the "stability of Estonian democracy" after the March 5 general election, Gundersen said. "What struck us as the most unusual feature of these elections was their ordinariness—perfectly normal democratic elections like in any Western country," he said.

During the visit, Estonia and the United States will sign an agreement that covers an environmental cleanup of the surroundings of the Paldiski nuclear reactors, Gundersen said. The office of Energy Minister Arvo Niitenberg told BNS the agreement concerns "technological cooperation in the sphere of ecology" at the Paldiski nuclear facility.

Gore arrives in Tallinn for a one-day visit on Monday. He is scheduled to meet with President Lennart Meri, members of Estonian political parties, and the three Baltic prime ministers.

Final Results of Elections Announced

LD1003212295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The final returns of the March 5 parliamentary election became known on Thursday [9 March] evening.

Election Commission officers told Interfax that the next legislature's 101 seats had been distributed among seven parties and election coalitions, each of which has managed to win more than the necessary minimum of 5 percent of votes.

Forty-one seats have gone to the bloc of the Coalition Party and the Association of Rural Residents, led by chairman of the Tallinn City Assembly Tiit Vahi and former head of parliament Arnold Ruutel. The Reform Party, led by president of the Bank of Estonia Siim Kallas, has won 19 seats. The Center Party, led by deputy head of parliament Edgar Savisaar, got 16 seats, the coalition of Isamaa and the National Independence Party of Estonia, led by former prime minister Mart Laar, received eight seats, and the Moderate Bloc and an election association of Russian-speakers called Our Home Is Estonia, which had never before participated in elections, got six seats each.

Until the last moment it was unclear where the right-wing National Party of Republicans and Conservatives stood. It lacked 12 votes to hit the 5 percent mark before expatriate Estonians' votes arrived. It was those that got the party in, giving it five seats in the future parliament.

The returns will be considered official after they are published in the State Bulletin, where they are due to appear on Saturday.

Under the Constitution, the first session of the new parliament is to be convened by the president within 10 days after this.

Parties, Electoral Blocs Win Mandates in Election

LD1003133595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Mar 10 (Interfax)—Seven political parties and electoral blocs won parliamentary mandates in Estonia. The elections were held on March 5.

The Estonian electoral commission told Interfax Thursday [9 March] evening that the Coalition Party and Rural Association, led by the chairman of the Tallinn legislature Tiit Vahi and the former chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Estonia and the Estonian Republic Arnold Ruutel, won 41 mandates. The Reform Party, led by the president of the Estonian Bank Siim Kallas, won 19 mandates. Sixteen mandates went to the Party of the Center led by the vice-speaker of the country's outgoing parliament Edgar Savisaar, eight - to the Ismaa Union and the National Independence Party led by former prime-minister Mart Laar. The "moderate" bloc and the new participant in the election race, the "Estonia Is Our Home" union of the Russian-speaking community, won, each, six seats in parliament. The "right-wing" party won 5 seats in Estonia's 101-seat legislature.

A final count of the returns will be revealed by the State Bulletin on March 11 and within ten days from March 11 President Lennart Meri will be expected to call the first session of the new body of the Estonian parliament.

Meri Denies Swing to Left Following Elections

LD1203195995 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian presidents, and also U.S. Vice President Al Gore took part in the UN Social Development Summit in Copenhagen, which is due to end today. President Lennart Meri was among these who made a speech today. Marit Pukk reports. [passage omitted]

[Pukk] Estonian President Lennart Meri made his speech this morning, after U.S. Vice President Al Gore. During his short speech, the Estonian president did not focus on the global issues of social development. First, Meri emphasized that a strong society is built on strong individuals. He also noted that speeches at the conference on the more humane structure of society often neglected the individual.

The message to the world in Lennart Meri's speech was that no turn to the left has taken place in Estonia as the result of the parliamentary elections, as has happened in several former communist states in Europe. Meri said the election results in Estonia confirm the sound progress of democratic reforms. None of the extreme right- or left-wing forces had got into the parliament, while at the same time, the non-Estonian [Russian] citizens of Estonia had gained representation. The president said that the party that had won the elections had promised to continue the policy of reforms. Meri said that the organic relationships between free market economy, democracy, and a strong society were acknowledged in Estonia. [passage omitted]

Coalition Party Leader Says Policy Must Change

WS1003143095 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Mar 10, BNS—The new government must make a shift in Estonia's foreign political course and above all change the stance with regard to the retired Russian military, Coalition Party Deputy Chairman Endel Lippmaa said in an interview with BNS.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik on Thursday [9 March] told the Russian INTERFAX news agency that in his opinion the new government didn't have much scope for changing the country's foreign policy.

"If Estonia wants to preserve its sovereignty and become a state like Sweden, Finland or Denmark, it must carry on the process of integration into Western structures. Also, it must endeavor to establish good relations with Russia," Luik said.

In Lippmaa's words, Luik "takes a pretty friendly attitude" toward Russian military pensioners living in Estonia.

"Such a position expresses integration, not with the West, but with the East," he told BNS.

Luik was optimistic about Estonia's policy toward the East and said he believes the Estonian-Russian border dispute can be resolved before the end of this year. The Coalition Party deputy chairman didn't share his optimism.

"Russia's complicated domestic political situation right now prevents it from solving border issues even with big states such as China and Japan, not to mention the tiny Estonia," he said.

Reform Party Leading Contender in KMU Coalition Talks

WS1003142995 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Mar 10, BNS—The Reform Party/Liberals is the chief partner of the Coalition Party and Rural Union electoral alliance (KMU) in coalition negotiations, Coalition Party Deputy Chairman Endel Lippmaa told BNS.

In Lippmaa's words, the interests and political standpoints of the two parties are close. "It will be relatively simple for us to reach a common platform," he assured.

"Both sides have shown they are fully prepared to reach compromise, which has created a good basis for contacts."

Lippmaa said KMU and the Reform Party were at present coordinating their principles. "Ministerial portfolios have so far been a problem of secondary importance," he noted.

Deputies from the Rural Union, the other partner in the election- winning alliance, have shown no opposition to the Reform Party, Lippmaa said. "They understand we have to build up the state and take Estonia as a truly modern state into Europe," he noted.

Earlier this week, Eldur Parder, chairman of the Farmers' Assembly—one of the groups that belongs to the KMU alliance—voiced strong opposition to a coalition with the Reform Party. He told BNS the Farmers' Assembly was categorically against forming a government with the Reformists.

KMU leaders have had meetings also with the leaders of the Center Party, Lippmaa said, but have not opened negotiations with them.

The Coalition Party-Rural Union alliance is unlikely to join forces with Russian deputies, Lippmaa said. "Quite a few members of their electoral union have very problematical relations with the Estonian state," he declared, but refused to elaborate.

Latvia

Ulmanis Leaves for UN Summit in Copenhagen

LD1003144595 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis flew to Copenhagen this morning to take part in the summit conference on world social development organized by the United Nations. On Sunday he will take part in the plenary session of the conference and make a speech.

In the Danish capital Ulmanis also intends to meet with the presidents of South Korea, Ukraine, and Turkey, and with the prime ministers of Spain, Iceland, and Ireland. He also plans a meeting of the presidents of the three Baltic countries.

Ulmanis will also attend a reception for heads of delegations held by the Danish prime minister, will meet with the Danish foreign minister, and will be received at Christiansborg Castle by Queen Margrethe of Denmark.

Baltic Unity in Doubt Over World War II Celebrations

LD1203203195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning the Latvian president met the Estonian and Lithuanian presidents, and Iceland's Prime Minister David Oddsson, and took part in a lunch held by Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. The Latvian president met the Ukrainian president and the Irish prime minister this afternoon.

The presidents of the three Baltic states did not manage to decide at their meeting on the question of participating in celebrations to mark the end of the Second World War in Moscow on 9 May. As is known, the presidents of the Baltic states have received an invitation from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin to take part in celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the victory over Fascism. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis explained that a decision on going or not going to Moscow will most likely be made shortly before the celebration itself, and it will depend on the situation in Russia and the event's agenda.

Although during the recent meeting in Jurmala, all three presidents said that either they would all go to Moscow or none of them, nevertheless, there is a certain anxiety that the Baltic states' unity in this issue might not be observed. The Lithuanian president wishes to go to Moscow to emphasize the fact of the Baltic states' occupation, while the Estonian president's stance toward the Yeltsin invitation is sharply negative. The Latvian president's answer to this question was considered. I will not be a destroyer of unity, Guntis Ulmanis said.

Russian Intelligence Detains Riga Arms Supplier

WS1303112895 Riga DIENA in Latvian 2 Mar 95 p 8

[Report by Pavels Sirovs: "Arms Supplier From Riga Detained"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Mar—On Tuesday [28 February] evening in Moscow, agents of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FPD] detained three Russian citizens and one resident of Riga. The latter had delivered a shipment of illegal arms to Moscow.

As DIENA was told by Sergey Bogdanov, chief of the press service of the FPD bureau in Moscow, the operation was being prepared for about a month. The detained Russian citizens, whose names have not been announced publicly, just as the name of their Riga partner is also being kept a secret, were under police surveillance for a long time on suspicion of illegal arms trading. The investigation showed that the arms were being delivered from Latvia. The resident from Riga had delivered to Moscow two pistols with silencers, a gas pistol, about 300 cartridges of various calibers, 80 detonators, and a remote-control device to set off explosions. All these weapons were made in the West.

FPD is of the opinion that the Baltic states are not the only route through which the arms are being delivered to Russia.

It is very probable that the arms are being exchanged for narcotics, which are then transported back across the Baltic states, Poland, and Scandinavia to the West. The arms are also being purchased with money obtained by means of trading narcotics and their raw materials, which are delivered to Russia from East Asia and Afghanistan.

The special services possess no information about arms being delivered from the Baltic states to Chechnya.

It should be noted that it is not difficult to purchase a gun in Moscow today. According to anonymous sources, a pistol can be bought for $500 to $1,000. An automatic pistol on the black market costs several thousand dollars, which is not much for certain segments of society. In most cases, these are used guns from so-called "hot spots." Brand new guns from abroad cost much more. They are usually purchased by businessmen and their bodyguards, who have licenses to carry them. These people usually, however, prefer to buy arms from legal sources, because a gun bought on the black market can be "marked," i.e. it can be a weapon with which a murder was committed. According to an anonymous tradesman, a pistol which was used to shoot a policeman can be obtained for almost nothing.

Investment Prospects Discussed With U.S. Delegation

WS1303113295 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Mar 10, BNS—A delegation from the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) visited Latvia Mar. 7-9 and met with representatives of more than 100 local firms, OPIC President Ruth Harkin told BNS.

The U.S. delegation comprised banking, telecommunication, transport and energy specialists, including representatives of Citibank, the Enron Development Corp., General Motors, Riggs National Bank of Washington, Orion Satellite and others.

Harkin said that the visit was a first step towards possible assistance and investment in concrete Latvian firms. Agreement was reached on several cooperation and investment projects, officials said.

In December 1995, financial resources will be allocated to an American cable and satellite TV company to upgrade facilities at the Zakusala TV tower. A joint venture is to be established between the Latvian firm Sidrabe and American Sheldahl which is to supply high-tech equipment for the telecommunications and aerospace industries.

OPIC plans to allocate 146,000 U.S. dollars to an American cranberry producing firm for a project in Latvia. Money for implementing the project will be allocated by the CEE-NIS Property Fund which finances OPIC projects in Central European states and CIS republics. The planned investment in these countries by the fund is 240 million U.S. dollars.

Representatives of the U.S. delegation visited the Communications Ministry Thursday and discussed the mainstreams of possible cooperation in economic branches, connected with the ministry.

American investors are ready to establish contacts with Latvian woodworking enterprises and use the Liepaja port for reloading timber.

OPIC port experts proposed to establish a free economic zone in Riga, where different equipment and apparatuses could be made incorporated into sets and assembled for further export in the East.

OPIC representatives were also interested in the development of telecommunications in the Baltic state. As Latvia has signed supply agreements with the Lattelekom for the term of three years, American specialists hope that U.S. telecommunication firms can provide their products at the expiry of this term.

OPIC specialists also investigated cooperation prospects with Latvia's large enterprises—VEF, Radiotehnika, Dambis, and the chance to take part in developing the mobile telephone network in Latvia.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency's leadership, which visted Latvia as part of the OPIC delegation, met Thursday with Finance Minister Andris Piebalgs and Foreign Resources State Minister Indra Samite and offered technical assistance in regulating Latvia's customs services, the Finance Ministry Information Center reports.

Harkin said there had been many complaints recently about Latvian customs. Piebalgs did not deny the information, but noted that Latvia was doing everything in its power to improve the situation in that area.

Amendments Adopted to Foreign Investments Law

WS1003143295 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Mar 10, BNS—Latvian Saeima's (parliament) adopted amendments to the law on foreign investments in Latvia provide that tax discounts, determined by the law on profit tax, will be retained even after the law becomes ineffective for those enterprises with foreign capital, which will be registered in Latvia's List of Enterprises by April 1, 1995, the daily DIENA reports.

The new law on enterprises' income tax, which will substitute the law on profit tax and take effect on Apr. 1, does not provides for tax discounts for enterprises with foreign capital. Such a norm will be introduced because of investigation results, which showed that Latvia is attractive to foreign investors not because of tax discounts, but because of the economic and political stability of the Baltic state.

In addition, international conventions provide that entrepreneurs must pay taxes in their own countries anyway, if they do not pay them in Latvia.

Lithuania

EU Talks 'Deadlocked' Over Land Sales to Foreigners

WS1303122295 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 10, BNS—Senior Lithuanian Foreign Ministry officials and the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee held a closed meeting Thursday [9 March] to discuss the sale of land to foreigners, a major problem in the country's association talks with European Union.

Talks between Lithuania and the EU are deadlocked over an article in the Lithuanian Constitution that does not allow foreigners to purchase land. The EU wants Lithuania to allow foreign corporations to acquire immovable property together with land on which it stands and also to rent land necessary to develop economic activities.

Last month, the parliament began consideration of a constitutional amendment that would allow to sell land to foreigners. However, initial discussions revealed major differences between the parliamentary majority and the opposition. The parliament rejected a similar amendment in 1993, when it was considered on the initiative of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party.

To be approved, a constitutional amendment has to be put to the vote twice with an interval of 3 months and supported by a two-thirds majority both times.

Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, who heads the Lithuanian delegation for talks with the EU, told BNS that the sale of immovable property and land attached to it to foreigners is a prerequisite for the signing of an association agreement with the EU. Januska said Lithuania would be able to sign the agreement if the parliament pledged to adopt the necessary amendments later. Otherwise, the official said, it will be "very hard" to sign the accord.

During Thursday's meeting, the sale of land to foreigners was strongly backed by Kazys Bobelis, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS reported. Bobelis indicated that Finland, Estonia and Latvia have all made changes in their legislations on the road to the EU.

MP Juozas Tartilas, member of the opposition Democratic faction, said he agreed that the article in the Constitution would have to be reviewed in the process of Lithuania's integration into the European bloc. However, neither he nor Christian Democrat Algirdas Saudargas could say whether the opposition would back the amendment.

Slezevicius, Gore To Discuss Bilateral, Regional Ties

LD1003212095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius intends to broach the subjects of bilateral and regional cooperation when he meets with U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore in Tallinn on March 13. Slezevicius said so at a news conference in Vilnius Thursday [9 March] in response to an Interfax question.

He felt that the U.S. was giving the Baltic countries an increasing attention. This is evidenced, Slezevicius said, by the conference organized by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Lithuania early in the week which made it possible for cooperation between Lithuanian and U.S. businesses to expand.

Asked by Interfax to specify the issues to be discussed with Gore, Slezevicius listed speeding up the drafting of a bilateral treaty on investment protection and encouragement, U.S. aid in organizing a Baltic peacekeeping battalion, an issue already discussed with Secretary Warren Christopher, and technical aid in training and retraining in various fields.

Free Trade Treaty Initialed With Iceland

LD1103153095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 11 (Interfax)—Lithuania and Iceland have initialed a free trade treaty.

As an Interfax correspondent has been told at Lithuania's Foreign Ministry, the document will be signed during the forthcoming visit to Vilnius by Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Iceland's president. However, as the source noted, when exactly Finnbogadottir would come had not been decided yet.

The accord is to give impetus to bilateral commercial ties, above all in fishery. "Fish trade between the two countries will be significantly liberalized," the diplomat explained.

According to republican statistics, Lithuanian-Icelandic trade and economic ties are "at an extremely low level." Last year, Lithuania exported to Iceland $234,000 worth commodities and imported $459,000 worth goods from it. The foreign department described this foreign trade indicator as the lowest in Western Europe.

Brazauskas: No Need To Discuss Baltic Military Union

WS1303122095 Vilnius ELTA in English 1207 GMT 10 Mar 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 711]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, March 10, ELTA—The resolution of the Baltic Assembly Defence Committee to form the Baltic military union was considered by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas as too light-minded.

After the meeting of the State Defence Council on Friday [10 March] he told journalists that he "saw no necessity to discuss the formation of the Baltic military union".

The idea to form such a military union was developed this year in Riga at the meeting of the Baltic Assembly Defence Committee.

Lithuanian MP Romualdas Ozolas who had taken part in the meeting said that he and MP Saulius Peceliunas had been enpowered to draft the corresponding documents. According to him, this should be done until the middle of March.

The cooperation among the defence institutions, which had been discussed at the meeting by the State Defence Council, was considered by Brazauskas as positive one. The institutions dealt with unified air control systems, weapons and statutes and other problems and that was natural, Brazauskas said.

Interim Agreement With Russia on Residents' Visas

LD1103152995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 11 (Interfax)—Lithuanians with permanent residence in Russia, and Russians with permanent residence in Lithuania, will be able to visit their "ethnic homeland" without visa formalities. As Arturas Zhurauskas, deputy director of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's Consular Department, has reported to Interfax, such a possibility stems from the Russian-Lithuanian interim agreement "On simplifying the procedure of mutual travels by residents," signed earlier this week.

According to the diplomat, unlike the earlier rules, the new regulations necessitate visas for citizens of Russia, permanently living there to cross the Lithuanian-Russian border. The same applies to citizens of Lithuania, permanently living in that Baltic republic. Earlier, a formal invitation was enough for a Lithuanian to travel to Russia and for a Russian to go to Lithuania.

As Zhurauskas explained, the rules make an exception for the civil aviation, rail, and truck crews, having permits from the Lithuanian transportation department or its Russian counterpart. However, this privilege, the diplomat added, does not apply to usual motorists.

The interview will be published in full in the next issue of Diplomatic Panorama on Monday, March 13.

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